



Temple Beth Israel

Community | Tradition | Inclusion

Temple Talk



Brought To You By Rabbi Ben: Renewal in the New Year

By: Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell

Happy (secular) New Year!

The new calendar year reflects the renewal we find around us in nature this time of year, which is expressed in Tu Beshvat, the Jewish New Year for trees we celebrate on January 24-25.

The rabbis in the Mishnah set Tu Beshvat (the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat) as the birthday for all trees, i.e. the date on which a tree turns one year older for purposes of taxation and use.

Why did they choose this date? After all, it is in the middle of winter, when trees even

in Israel lie dormant. Here are three reasons, which all speak to the theme of renewal:

The Talmud (Tractate Rosh Hashanah) suggests that by Tu Beshvat the soil in Israel has received enough rain during the winter rainy season to be a fertile planting ground for new trees.

Rashi notes that by Tu Beshvat the sap begins to rise to feed the new leaves and buds of trees.

In Israel the almond tree begins to bud around Tu Beshvat.

(Continued on page 10)

Presidents Message

By: Linda Ungerleider

Thank you to everyone that came out to enjoy our Hanukkah activities. The Mayor's candle lighting had a great community turn out, our New Member dinner had over 40 people in attendance and the Latke and Vodka event on the last night of Hanukkah was a wonderful way to end the holiday. We hope you enjoyed Hanukkah as much as we did.

TBI continues to follow the best practices in keeping us all safe. At this time, even with all the media coverage of suspicious emails and postcards, there is no credible threat to our community. Local, State and Federal authorities have assured us that these threats are being looked into, but we should continue to hold activities and services as we normally do. It is essential that we all be vigilant to our surroundings at all times. If you see something unusual, please say something. We

(Continued on page 10)

Brought to you by Rabbi Ben	1, 10
Presidents Message	1, 10
Social Justice	2
Membership	2
Classes / Home-hosted Community Shabbat Dinner	3
Programs	4-5
Zoom Links	6-7
Donations	8
Yahrzeits	9
TBI Bookshelf	11



Temple Beth Israel

Rabbi: Benjamin Chaidell
Phone: 617-826-9601
Email: rabbiben@tbiwaltham.org
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30 - Noon

Officers

President: Linda Ungerleider
Vice President: Erika Mackin
Secretary: Phyllis Werlin
Membership Director: Edie Rosenberg
Treasurer / Finance: Jim Baron

Board Members and Committees

Cemetery: Jim Baron/Alan Levine
Chesed / Caring: Andrea Baron
Development: Howard Trachtman
House: Merrill Griff
Program: Ben Nudelman
Ritual: Mark Frydenberg
Social Justice: Joshua Mandell
Immed. Past Pres: Dina Baker
At Large: Joan Friedman
 Natasha Moshinsky
 Dana Fine

Stay in Touch

Executive Director: Andrea Baron
Office Assistant: Marilyn Racette
Phone: 781-894-5146
Cell: 781-330-0482
Email: andrea@tbiwaltham.org
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Address: 25 Harvard Street
 Waltham, MA 02453

Web: www.tbiwaltham.org
Facebook: facebook.com/tbiwaltham
Linked In: https://www.linkedin.com/company/tbiwaltham

Social Justice Committee

Chair: Joshua Mandell

Warming Center 2023-2024



* The Warming Center is now open on Sundays and looking for volunteers. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AEA829A0F4CF8-45440327-warming#/> or contact Joshua at joshua6781@gmail.com if you're interested.

* We are participating as an observer in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's Housing Initiative. The group is hosting a meeting on January 10th to discuss their affordable housing initiative in more detail.

* We have been approved for the extended Kulanu grant and will be working this year with our friends at First Parish and reaching out to First Lutheran to work on building allyship in the community.

As always, there is a bin in our lobby for used books that are donated to More than Words. There are also bins for the Day Center. They are collecting winter clothing and individual snacks



Membership Update By: Edie Rosenberg

We had a very good turnout at the Chanukah/Shabbat/New Members dinner on December 8th. 44 people came, including 12 new members and a family of prospective members. It was very festive, with animated conversation and singing. Thanks to all who contributed to making this evening a success!

The Membership Committee is seeking additional members to help us generate ideas and move forward with ways to attract more potential members to our community. If you would like to be more involved, or if you just have ideas you'd like to share, please let me know. I can be reached by phone at (617) 232-1838 or by email at edsrosenberg@gmail.com.

To help members stay in touch with each other, we will be creating a membership list that includes everyone's contact information. Please contact the TBI office at (781) 894-5146 or via email at temple.waltham@gmail.com if you would like us to send you a copy of the file. (We plan to send it electronically, but if you would like a printed copy please let us know and we will print one and send it to you by mail.)

Beginning this month, Rabbi Ben will be holding 3 Opportunities for Learning

Classes (unless otherwise noted, will be held in-person with a Zoom option available to those unable to attend in person). To attend, please register at this link [CLICK HERE](#) or with Rabbi Ben at rabbiben@tbiwaltham.org or 781-894-5146.

1. New Lenses on the Weekly Parsha

Third Thursday of the month at 12 PM (January 18, February 15, March 21)

Join Rabbi Ben for a weekly exploration of the Torah portion which will connect the ancient text to the world today through classical, medieval, and modern commentary and midrash. We will utilize Jewish, academic, and artistic perspectives to understand what the Torah meant to our ancestors, and means to us, today.

2. Hot Topics: Jewish Views on Our World Today

Last Sunday of the Month, 10:30 AM, following Minyan at 9 AM and Breakfast (January 28, February 25, March 31)

How do we wage a just war? Navigate end of life decisions? Use new technology in an ethical way? Join Rabbi Ben to explore the guidance Jewish tradition offers on these topics and more as we navigate a complicated world together.

3. Jewish Prayer 2.0: How, What, and Why We Pray

First Thursday of the Month, 7:00 PM (January 4, February 1, March 7)

Join Rabbi Ben to explore the deeper meaning of Jewish prayer. Whether you attend services every week or you are just beginning your Jewish journey, you will gain new insights into the background of the prayers we say, how we say them, and what they mean. Participants will practice reciting prayers in the traditional mode as well as be exposed to new spiritual and mindful practices to enhance the meaning of familiar prayers. This class is intentionally designed for participants from a range of backgrounds, who will find it meaningful to learn the prayers together.

Join Us: TBI Home-hosted Community Shabbat Dinner

Join with others in our community by sharing in a home-hosted Shabbat dinner on **Friday evening, February 9**. We will gather in small groups at members' homes to welcome the Shabbat and break bread together in this long-standing tradition.

Please indicate your interest in participating as a host or a guest. **Guests and hosts** are asked to sign up now so we can create groupings. Please respond as soon as possible and **no later than Friday, January 26** so we have time to create groups and then for the hosts to prepare. **We may be unable to accommodate late responses.**

Hosts sign up [here](#). Each host will provide the food and beverages for their table.

Guests sign up [here](#). If you are unable to register online, please contact the office to sign up by the deadline.

We look forward to an evening of home ritual, meeting, and eating together.



Friday Night Kabbalat Services January 5th

**Join us in house for Happy 1/2
Hour beginning at 5:45pm with
wine and cheese**

**Services begin both in house and
online at 6:30pm**

Yiddish Literature Discussion Group Saturday Jan. 20 after Kiddush

Martha Tolpin will lead us in a discussion of the short story *Bontsha the Silent*, by I.L Peretz to kick off our Yiddish literature discussion group. We will distribute the story (in English translation) at Shabbat service on 1/13 as well as an electronic version by e-blast (you can read it [here](#)).



Tu Bishvat Kiddush Saturday Jan. 27

Join us for a special Tu Bishvat Kiddush and Seder during which we will bless symbolic fruits and vegetables to connect us to the land of Israel and to nature around us in the traditions of the Kabbalists of Safed.

Minyan, Breakfast, and Hot Topics Sunday Morning Jan. 28: Tu Bishvat and Sacred Sustainability

Minyan at 9 AM, Breakfast at 9:45 sponsored by Ed Brown, Class at 10:30 AM

What does Tu Beshvat, an ancient holiday marking the birthday of trees, say about environmental sustainability today? Join us to explore passages from the very first Tu Beshvat Seder by the mystics of Safed which encourage us to find "renewable blessings" in all we enjoy. **Thank you to Ed Brown for the blessing of sponsoring our breakfast!**

First Aliyah

By: Scott Tepper

You know the alef-bet and the vowels, and you can read the regular Shabbat prayers pretty well at this point. But you want to go further, maybe with the goal of chanting Haftarah or Torah. How can you build your Hebrew reading skill?



Developing Hebrew reading is like developing any other skill – you just need to do it repeatedly in varying situations.

That's what we'll work on in this class. We will look at the first aliyah of the upcoming Shabbat's Torah reading, and practice reading it. We'll work with a maximum of 5 verses. Scott will read it first, maybe more than once, and then participants will take turns reading, maybe word by word to start. This draws on the familiar management maxim – How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

The goal: given 5 verses from the Torah (with vowels) and 2 hours to prepare, be able to read aloud at the rate of 1 word per second with 90% accuracy.

Class will meet online, Monday nights 6:30-7:15pm, beginning January 22. Scott will advise on appropriate online and printed texts. Contact Scott or Rabbi Ben for more information.

TBI PORTRAITS

Description of a New Monthly Program to start soon

By: Diana Korzenik

Linger over Kiddush lunch, coffee and sweets to listen to and participate in interviews I will conduct with people we see all the time but have yet to really know.

I know I've wondered where each of us came from and was raised, what sort of Jewish experience and education each of us might have had, or wished we had?.. What children's book may have impressed you and why?.. When did you know you were really good at....? How did you get your first job?... etc.

TBI PORTRAITS are conversational opportunities to learn and make connections with each other's stories. We hope to start this program soon.

Contact Diana Korzenik if you would like to volunteer to be an interviewee.

Children and Family

Tu Bishvat Program



Sunday Morning January 14th 10am

For more information or to register to attend, please contact Rabbi Ben.



Join NextGen for Havdallah and Game Night on Saturday Evening January 27th at 7:00pm

Bring your favorite game or play one from TBI's collection

Check your email for details in a future eblast!



We meet by computer, by phone, and in person (though we do close the building temporarily in COVID-19 surges—please check the website).

To join by phone--no computer needed: Dial (301)-715-8592. You will hear a prompt to enter a meeting ID. Enter the meeting ID, followed by #. In the listing of events below, we show the meeting ID for each event.

To join by computer or mobile device, visit zoom.us in a web browser, click *Join a Meeting*, and enter the meeting ID and password for the event (or click the direct link to the event posted on our website or in our weekly email update). **The current list of events appears below.**

For the latest schedule of online events, visit <http://www.tbiwaltham.org/>.

Dates	January Shabbat Services Online	Meeting ID
January 5 January 12, 19, 26	Happy 1/2 Hour 5:45pm Inhouse and Online Services begin at 6:30 Shabbat Service - 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Online only	Click Here to Join
January 6, 13, 20, 27	Shabbat Morning In-house and Online 9:30 am	Click Here to Join
	Thursday Morning Minyan	
January 4, 11, 18, 25	Morning Minyan 8:00 am Online only	Click Here to Join
	Sunday Morning Minyan	
January 28 See page 5 for details	Sun. Morning Minyan & Breakfast 9:00am Rabbi Ben Teaching 10:30	Click Here to Join
All Online Services	All Online Services	858 6689 6770 pw: TBIservice

Classes to Sign Up For

See Page 3 For Class Descriptions

Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21	New Lenses on the Weekly Parsha Third Thursday of the month at 12pm	CLICK HERE to sign up
Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 31	Hot Topics: Jewish Views on Our World Today Last Sunday of the month at 9:00am	CLICK HERE to sign up
Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 7	Jewish Prayer 2.0: How, What, and Why We Pray First Thursday of the Month, 7:00pm	CLICK HERE to sign up

The last night of Hanukkah at TBI



Howard's Corner

by Howard D. Trachtman, BS, CPS, CPRP, COAPS

Do you have hearing loss?

We will be holding two meetings (one in house and one on Zoom) so that TBI can create some best practices to assist those with hearing loss. We want to learn from you about accommodations that work. If you are hearing impaired, we hope you will join us at one of these meetings. We want to learn what works best for you.

The first meeting will be in person on Sunday, January 14th at 10:30am at TBI. The other meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday January 10th at 7:00.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83780455686?pwd=b1FhcGpFdEoyZW4MnJUamk1Z2hUQT09>

Please plan on attending the meeting that is best for you.

These meetings are open to all!

I can be reached at hdt@mit.edu and 781 642 0368.

-Howard

Ad-Hoc Security Committee

In light of the new dynamics in the Jewish community and constant threats against Jewish institutions, it is now time to reestablish our ad hoc security committee as approved by the Board of Directors on December 13, 2023.

This committee will work to develop protocols, best practices and procedures to keep our building secure and everyone safe. Much guidance has been received from Secure Community Network, CJP, as well as, Homeland Security at the state and federal levels. Captain Rodley, community liaison at Waltham Police Department, will collaborate with committee.

Our next steps are to designate a chairperson and add volunteers tasked with the development of a security manual for TBI. If you would like to be a member of this ad hoc committee, please contact Merrill Griff or Linda Ungerleider. The first meeting should be held in January.

Donations

Saturday Kiddush Donations

- Dec 16 - Diana Korzenik, in memory of her sister
- Dec 23 - Toni Wolfman, in memory of Bob Macauley
- Sunday January 28 - Ed Brown, in honor of his return to in house services
- Feb 3 - Bruce Trager, in memory of Hillel Stavis

Sharing a light lunch after services each week strengthens and creates community. \$200 sponsors one Shabbat lunch for up to 40 people. Contact the office to reserve your week today!

General Fund Donations

- David Prerau, in memory of Hillel Stavis
- Natalya Gomelskaya, in memory of Fayvul Gomelskiy
- Deborah Leabman, on Giving Tuesday
- Carole Cotton, in honor of Hanukkah
- Stephen Etkind, in memory of his mother, Lillian Etking
- Debra Darling, in memory of Leah Katzen Darling

Please consider making a donation in memory of a loved one listed on our yahrzeit page, or in honor of a special someone's life cycle event. You can use the form on page 11 and send in a check or donate online at our website using a credit card.

High Holiday Donations

- Joel Israel
- Daniel Mangoubi, a Brandeis Student 5 years ago who attended services while in school.
- Martin Taubman
- Susan Schy

Heating / Cooling System Upgrade Donation

- Albert Smith

Thank You

Thanks to those who read Torah, Haftarah, led a portion of the service, were a gabbai, or gave a D'var Torah recently:

- Mark Frydenberg
- Scott Tepper
- Dana Fine
- Susan Holbert
- Celia Shneider
- Liza
- Alan Levine

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to volunteer to be gabbai, to read from the Torah or chant a Haftarah, or contact Mark Frydenberg or Rabbi Ben if you would like to give a D'var Torah in the coming months.

We wish a long life to our members who are observing a Yahrzeit in the coming weeks.

If your loved one is remembered here, we remind you that it is customary to acknowledge the yahrzeit with tzedakah. TBI appreciates any gift you wish to make in memory of your loved ones.

January Yahrzeits

- Jan 1 - Miriam Chernoff, in memory of Betty Ullman
- Jan 3 - Paul and Albert Smith, in memory of Margaret Smith
- Jan 5 - Steven Kennen, in memory of his father, Abraham Kennen
- Jan 5 - Alan Levine, in memory of Sarah Rachel Greene
- Jan 8 - Stanley Goldstein, in memory of his mother, Caryl Goldstein
- Jan 11 - Jill Carni, in memory of her father, Lawrence Carni
- Jan 11 - Erika Mackin, in memory of her grandfather, Robert Terrance Mackin
- Jan 14 - Marilyn Racette, in memory of Eleazer Weitzenberg
- Jan 14 - Dianne Levine, in memory of Milton Popolow
- Jan 17 - TBI in memory of Edith Hollender
- Jan 17 - Karin Kriegsman, in memory of her father, Julius Handel
- Jan 19 - Steven Kennen, in memory of his mother, Sarah Kennen
- Jan 21 - Jill Carni, in memory of, Ira Zinkerman
- Jan 22 - Miriam Chernoff, in memory of Max Chernoff
- Jan 23 - Alan Levine, in memory of Molly Hauser
- Jan 24 - Amy Rothman, in memory of David Rothman
- Jan 24 - Howard Trachtman, in memory of Eva Trachtman
- Jan 24 - Erika Cohen, in memory of Ilona Viltschek
- Jan 24 - Dana Fine, in memory of Martin Albert
- Jan 25 - Susan Schy, in memory of Rosalind G. Silver
- Jan 25 - Denise Dickinson, in memory of Ruth Dickinson
- Jan 26 - Miriam Chernoff, in memory of David Ullman
- Jan 30 - Paul Smith, in memory of his wife Alice Smith
- Jan 31 - Barbara Camann, in memory of Saul Cohen

February Yahrzeits

- Feb 3 - Ed Brown and Julie Gagnon, in memory of wife and mother, Renee Brown
- Feb 3 - James Baron and Audrey Kennen, in memory of their uncle, Donald Kaplan
- Feb 4 - George Isaac, in memory of his mother, Rosa Isaac
- Feb 5 - Susan Furman and Beth Cormier, in memory of their father, Maurry Furman
- Feb 6 - Edward Kaufman, in memory of Dorothy Ullian
- Feb 8 - Ben Nudelman, in memory of Regina Greenbaum
- Feb 9 - Zach Roe, in memory of Helen Rose Justice
- Feb 10 - Susan Baron, in memory of her father, Edward Baron
- Feb 13 - Merrill Griff, in memory of, Benson Griff
- Feb 14 - Amy Rothman, in memory of her grandmother, Eva Rothman
- Feb 17 - Esther Keaney, in memory of her father, Paul Keaney
- Feb 17 - Paul and Albert Smith, in memory of their mother, Sonia Smith
- Feb 21 - Jordan Kreidberg, in memory of his mother, Fanna Kreidberg
- Feb 23 - Paul and Albert Smith, in memory of their brother, David Smith
- Feb 23 - Janice Goldstein, in memory of her step father, Jerome Bloom
- Feb 29 - Bruce Trager, in memory of his grandfather, Robert Fox

Brought To You By Rabbi Ben: Renewal in the New Year

By: Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell

(Continued from page 1)

In Jewish tradition humans are likened to trees; like trees, we have roots that nourish and sustain us, and like trees, we grow tall to share our fruits and gifts with others.

And like trees, during this month of January we too are planted in a fertile place for renewal and growth. Our life energy increases as sunlight increases each day, paralleling the rising sap. And like the almond tree, we begin to see the fruit of our work flower in the new year.

At TBI, we aim to be that fertile soil in which you can discover renewal, renewed growth, and pride in the fruit of your hands. Join us for one of our new classes on Torah or prayer where you can learn and grow in your understanding of our tradition. Learn a new ritual skill this year (a new prayer? A first aliya?) or a new practical skill volunteering at our warming center, in the kitchen, or improving our building.

Lastly, join us to celebrate Tu Beshvat on Jan. 27 for a special kiddush featuring symbolic food and drink from the land of Israel and on January 28 for a learning session on the connection between the ancient rituals of Jewish mystics and today's demands for environmental sustainability.

We continue to pray and act for peace in Israel and around the world. May this time of renewal bring peace and growth to us and to all the communities of which we are a part.



Rabbi Ben

Rabbi Ben has begun Office Hours

Wednesdays from 9:30am –10:00am will be Zoom Only. [Click Here to enter the zoom room.](#)

From 10:00am - 12:00pm people can make an appointment or just drop in, understanding they may need to wait if someone is already with me.

Presidents Message

By: Linda Ungerleider

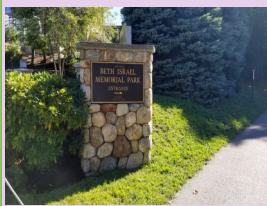
(Continued from page 1)

are grateful to our local police department for keeping a good eye on our building with frequent drive bys and check ins.

We hope that you will join us for our new learning experiences beginning in January. These opportunities will be listed in our weekly eblast, on our website calendar and in the bulletin with complete descriptions, dates and times. Please remember to arrive on time for our in person events. We cannot guarantee the door will be staffed 15 minutes after the start of the event. We appreciate your cooperation so that volunteers staffing the door can enjoy the event as well.

Linda





Temple Beth Israel Memorial Park

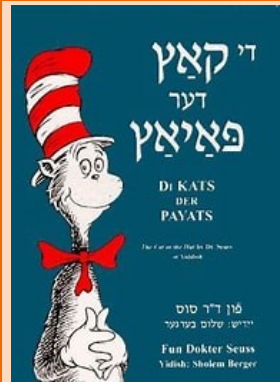
Temple Beth Israel has maintained a cemetery for its members since 1951. Beth Israel Memorial Park is located on South Street, between the Stanley Elementary School and Children's Hospital. Graves are available in Section A (the right side as you enter the cemetery), Section B (the left side as you enter the cemetery) and in Kulanu (the left side, after Section B). The cost to purchase an individual grave in Sections A or B for Temple members is \$2,200 (\$4,400 for two). The cost for non-members is \$3,600 per grave, which includes one year of membership.

You must be a Temple member for two or more consecutive years to take advantage of Member pricing; Non-member pricing applies to all others.

Kulanu is dedicated to serving the needs of Jewish Temple members who are married to a non-Jewish spouse. Graves in the Kulanu interfaith section are sold in lots of two, at a total cost of \$4,400 for members. The cost for non-members is \$7,200 for a lot of two, which includes one year of family membership.

If you are interested in purchasing one or more graves, please contact **Jay Trilling** of Menorah Cemetery Management Corporation at (857) 636-9440.

—Jim Baron and Alan Levine
Cemetery Committee Chairs



TBI Bookshelf

By Marilyn Racette

It's a new year, and that's a wonderful time for something new...or revisiting something old, in a new way. After services on January 20th, Martha Tolpin will present the short story Bontshe the Silent, by I.L. Peretz, held by many to be one of the three great classical Yiddish writers. Martha will speak about the story and the author and will facilitate a discussion. Did you know the Temple Beth Israel library contains books about Yiddish, as well as books in Yiddish presented some years ago to Sam Weinstein and the Temple Beth Israel Yiddish Club? We also have bilingual books with Yiddish and English, and even a copy of Di Kats der Payats, which is, of course, a Yiddish translation of The Cat in the Hat, with transliteration. **Stop by the library to check out our collection.**

Social Media

Follow us on social media:

Facebook:

facebook.com/TBIWaltham/

LinkedIn:

linkedin.com/company/tbiwaltham/

Instagram:

instagram.com/tbiwaltham/

Temple Beth Israel Donation Form

For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to: Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA 02453. You may also donate online at <http://tbiwaltham.org/donate>. The minimum donation amount is \$10. Please add additional information on another sheet.

Attached is my donation check in the amount of \$ _____. Please allocate it to the following funds.

____ General Fund ____ Mark Frydenberg Event Participation Fund ____ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund ____ High Holiday Fund
____ TBI Community Outreach ____ Warming Center Fund ____ Saturday Kiddush Fund -(Minimum \$200)

This donation is being made ____ in honor of ____ in memory of _____.

This donation is made by:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip _____



Temple Beth Israel

25 Harvard Street
Waltham, MA 02453

Help us save on postage!

Pick up your copy of Temple Talk at the synagogue
or read it online at www.tbiwaltham.org.

Mark Your Calendar! January Highlights

Friday Night Shabbat Service	Happy 1/2 Hour and Kabbalat Shabbat Service In House and Online 5:45pm First Friday of the month Welcoming Shabbat Service online only- 5:30—6:00 all other Fridays
Shabbat Morning	Shabbat Morning Services - at 9:30am In House and Online
First Aliyah and TBI Portraits	2 New Programs Beginning in January See page 5 for details
TBI Portraits	New Program to begin soon led by Diana Korzenik See page 5 for details
Sign Up for Classes beginning this month	Classes to Sign Up For See page 3 and 6 for details
Tu Bishvat Children's Program	See Page 5 for Details
Minyan, Breakfast & Hot Topics—Tu Bishvat—Yiddish Lit. Discussion	See Page 4 for Details