BETENU May 2012 Newsletter

Rabbi's Message: May 2012 - I-yar 5772 Volume 29: No 6

Subject: Betenu's Firsts and Purpose

A quick look at Betenu's web-site shows that it is technologically obsolete – although it is far better than many temple web-sites that are technologically up-to-date but the data and schedule information on their sites are woefully out-of-date. Many of Betenu's newer members are not aware that Betenu was, as far as I know, the first temple to have had an electronic mailing list. In our origins, a disproportionate fraction of our members were techies. In 1986, only a few people had home email, but perhaps 1/3 to ½ of our families had email in their offices.

We were among the first with a web-site. Doug Hirsch maintained and up-graded the site for years, but when he moved on about a decade ago, I took over a "caretaker" role. I updated schedule data, posted the newsletter, but little else. A few have volunteered over the years to upgrade the technology of the web-site, but no one has been willing to pick up the responsibility for updating it.

So while we may have scooped everyone with our web presence, without a volunteer stepping up to maintain it, our techno lead may become techno irrelevance. If this is something a member has the skill to pick up, please contact "execs@betenu.org".

In last month's newsletter I stated.

"If Betenu doesn't make it, it's won't be for lack of assets or even member-ship. We live in a region with 5-URJ congregation within 20 miles of each other. In evaluating where we are and where we want to be, it is a simple question: Do we at Betenu have something to offer our membership that isn't available at one of these other nearby places – and if the answer is yes, you have a head start that the founders of Betenu never had."

Continued....

Rabbi's Message: May 2012 - I-yar 5772 Volume 29: No 6 Continued:

What do we have to offer?

We have wonderful people and there is always a nice community feeling at our services and *on-gei* Shabbat

We own our building, so there is no immediate threat of a large building fund commitment

We have a one-day a week religious school. In our extremely busy world, it eases car pool requirements. With that school, we have done a remarkable job providing our children a Jewish education which has led to Jewish leadership and Jewish continuity

We are located just off a major highway which allows for easy access and plenty of parking

Our dues are the lowest in the region.

We have good strong lay leadership who should be able to bridge the gap between me and my successor.

With the above as a head start, all we need is the volunteer support of our members to do the roles needed to maintain a community.

Confirmation is Friday, May 25. It has become an "alumni reunion" for Betenu's confirmands. Please encourage your now adult confirmands to join us for Betenu's 25th confirmation service, which will also be the last for me. We had 88 confirmands and 108 Bnei Mitsvah over my 29 years at Betenu.

<u>SPECIAL NOTE</u>: Some members of Betenu are physically sensitive to certain aromas coming from perfumes, colognes, hairsprays, dryer sheets and the like. These aromas can cause migraines and a host of other problems. Please be aware of that when you come to Betenu.

Please **DO NOT** bring scented items for the SHARE donation bin.

Betenu has natural cleaning products available for use.

Please **DO NOT** bring your own cleaning products for oneg or other cleanup. Thank you!



AND FOR ONLINE SHOPPING, TEXTBOOKS AND A MILLION OTHER THINGS...

Don't forget to shop through Betenu's link to Amazon.com. Betenu will receive a percentage of the purchase price.

You can shop for books and a million other things through this link. Just go to our website: www.betenu.org, put your cursor over "Search new and used, Amazon.com", and when the cursor changes, click. Or you can enter your search right there and click "Go".

It's that simple! And don't forget to purchase your textbooks here!

We receive about \$20 a month from this program - Thank you & keep shopping!!!!

BETENU NOW ACCEPTS MC, VISA & Discover!

You can use MasterCard, VISA or Discover card to pay membership fees, school tuition, gift store purchases, or even to make a donation!

Call the office (or stop in) to arrange the charge and let us know the amount and what it's for.







CONGREGATION BETENU

Rabbi: Joshua Segal 603-886-1633 or rabbi@betenu.org

President: see VP Finance or president@betenu.org

VP Finance: Bob Rimalover 603-672-5629

VP Admin: none currently

(Acting) VP Educ: Sheryl Liberman 603-424-4609

Secretary: Pam Blotcky 603-882-4029

Bookkeeper Elissa Kahn 603-673-8283

Trustee: Vivian McGuire 603-882-3139

Trustee@Large: Sara Murphy 603-465-7119
Trustee@Large:Joel Silberberg 603-472-8143
Newsletter Editor: Susan Rodil 604-878-4677
Oneg Representative: Roberta Pavoll 672-9820

Volunteer at Betenu!

If you have a passion, a talent or a skill, this is a good time of year to start lending a hand at Betenu.

It's a highly rewarding experience. It takes a village!

Please contact the office if you can help.

Existing committees include:

Budget & Finance, Membership, Education, Religious Practices, BYG: Betenu Youth Group & Youth Activities, Publicity Long-range planning, Planning Activities, Newsletter, Building & Grounds, Fundraising, Oneg Shabbat, and Sunshine Committee: Help visit and tend to the ill, needy or just to be a friend in need, Traveling Shabbat: Conduct a home service for the home-bound

mv.barackobama.com

Women: Together we can -- *merica forward for

LIKE US on facebook

http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Congregation-Betenu/250291141669802

or visit our Homepage WWW.BETENU.ORG



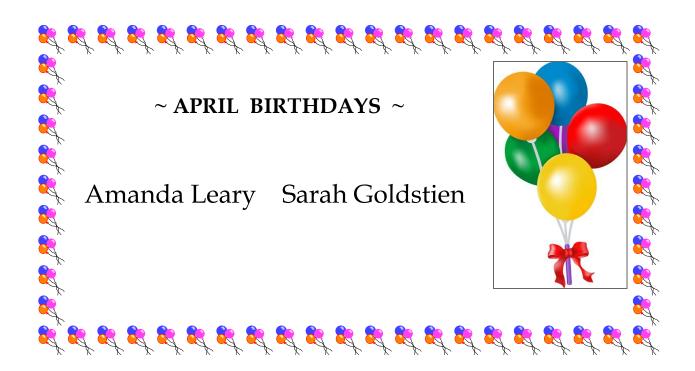
BETENU INFO

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 or 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 if you would enjoy support and comfort from our Congregation Betenu community.

DEADLINE for the May Newsletter is

May 23rd 2012 Please send articles and information to email betenu@nii.net.



May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 7:30pm Rabbi-led Service	5 Acharei Mot / Ke- doshim 4:30pm Pajama Havdallah
9:15am Religious School #29	7	8	9 Erev Lag B'Omer	7pm Rabbi-led Adult Ed Megillat Ruth Lag B'Omer	7:30pm Rabbi-led Service	12 Emor
13 NO Religious School	7:30pm Executive Board Mtg	15	16	17	7:30pm Rabbi-led Service	19 Behar/ Bechukotai
9:15am Religious School #30 7:30pm Annual Meeting	21	Rosh Chodesh: Sivan	23	24	7:30pm Rabbi-led Shavuot Service	26 Bemidbar 6pm Pot-luck & Tikkun Leil Shavuot with Rahel Erev Shavuot
(In Israel and Reform—last day of Shavuot)	28	29	30	31		
Shavuot	Shavuot					

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					7:30pm Lay-led Service	2 Naso
3	4	5	6	7	8 7:30pm Rabbi-led Service	9 Beha'alotecha
10	11	12	13	14	7:30pm Rabbi-led Service	16 Shelach Lecha
17	7:30pm General Board Mtg	19	Rosh Chodesh: Tammuz	Rosh Chodesh: Tammuz	7:30pm Lay-led Service	23 Korach
24	25	26	27	28	7:30pm Lay-led Service	30 Chukat

COMING UP AT BETENU...



Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Sunday, May 20 at noon.

All members of the Congregation are Welcome and encouraged to attend.

ALL CHILDREN (K-6) should arrive and be present from 9:00am!!

From 10:15am-1:00pm:

Families and congregants are invited to join us for our school presentations & awards festivities and Luncheon.

Nina, Rahel, Sonia, Sandra and Rachel













Rachel Liff: We will miss you!!!

I think I can safely say I have known our dear Rachel since she was as old as the students she is working with today. I have had the privalege of watching her grow from a smiling sensitive and inquisitive little girl into the warm, loving, generous, insightful and talented young woman she has become today.

Rachel's contributions as a teacher's aide at Betenu have been priceless. She is a natural at teaching and her love for the children at Betenu shines brightly. The children absolutely adore her. A natural born teacher, Rachel easily stepped into Sandra's lead teacher's shoes whenever presented with the opportunity. In fact, this past year she I would say we regarded her as more of a coteacher than an aide!

Every year Rachel has offered inspiration to our students by sharing her participation in the Special Olympics and in her school plays, which some of our Betenu students attended. Rachel's smile and enthusiasm is contagious.

Rachel, we are all going to miss you dearly. We know you will meet with success as you continue on your life journey at Brandeis University and your adult life.

Rahel	
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	~~~~~~~~~

Dear Rachel

Wherever you go, succeed in everything and be a good emissary for Israel, for the Jewish people, FOR YOURSELF!

Best Sonia

Continues next page

## Goodbye.....Rachel

Rachel, it has been wonderful to have your assistance for the past 3 years. I have learned so much from you. Sad as we are to see you go, we are thrilled for your future. All the best.

#### Sandra

#### New Assistant – WELCOME

At this time, we welcome a new assistance to the Religious school team. "Elaine Schwartz"

The children enjoyed meeting Elaine at Sunday school today 4/29/2012. She will be replacing Rachel Liff next year.

Elaine is a former Betenu teacher.

### **COMING UP AT BETENU**

#### ANNUAL MEETING

The Betenu Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 20**. Elections will be held for President; Administrative VP; Education VP; Treasurer; and two Executive Trustees. Anyone interested in running for office is invited to contact the temple office: 886-1633 or betenu@betenu.org.

**IMPORTANT:** We need a quorum to hold this meeting. Proxies count as part of this quorum. So, please plan to attend or give your proxy to someone who will be there. You may use the sample proxy available below.

### Congregation Betenu Annual Meeting May 2012

### **Proxy Voting Form**

I (we),	(name(s)),
being entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting,	
Hereby appoint (*name	e of appointed person)
as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the 2011 annual meeting	ng.
Signed	(signature)
	(date of signing)
*Assign one person only	
*A member can only vote the proxy for 2 other members. F	Please make sure this
person can have your proxy.	

## **General Board Meeting**

June 18th 2012 7:30

All are invited to attend any general board meetings.

## ONEG SHABBATS **WE NEED ONEG SPONSORS**

**To host an Oneg,** one brings the desserts, fruit, and challah, and sets up and cleans up.

To sponsor an Oneg, one pays \$54 and the Oneg committee will purchase the food, set up and clean up. Either way you do it, you can honor a birthday, an anniversary, or any other special event in your life, by choosing the Oneg closest to that special date. Or you can remember the Yahrzeit of a loved one by hosting or sponsoring the Oneg on the Shabbat when you come to say Kaddish.

If you have a date in mind, please call Roberta Pavoll at 672-9820.





## MATTERS

There are hundreds of reasons to make a donation to Congregation Betenu

Please donate TODAY ..

BIRTHDAY, BAR/BAT MITZVAH, GRADUATION, BIRTH, DEATH, WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT, ANNIVERSARY, YAHR-ZEIT, BABY NAMING -ANY CELEBRATION OR MEMORABLE MOMENT. OR JUST BECAUSE....

TZEDAKAH – HELP OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL OF 360.00 .. JUST DROP A COIN OR BILL IN OUR TZEDAKAH COLLECTION BOXES OR SEND A CHECK

SPONSOR A CHILD'S JEWISH EDUCATION...



#### ~~~UPCOMING AT BETENU – MAY ~~~~

Greetings volunteers!

In March, when we had our meeting with concerned members, you signed up to work with one of the committees that will help take Betenu forward.

We have now scheduled a kick-off evening for three of these groups to meet and start working on ideas.

On Sunday, May 6, at 7 p.m., we will hold initial meetings of the Fundraising, Communication/Outreach and Activities committees. The executive board will be there to facilitate and provide light refreshments as we brainstorm ideas to get each group started.

We understand that no one date will work for everyone; if you cannot make this event, please contact me with your ideas via email (mmeconrad@grolen.com)or at 879-9189.

You can also contact the Betenu office.

We will be sending this message to the entire congregation, but please feel free to forward it to anyone who wasn't at the March meeting but would be interested in working in these areas.

I look forward to seeing you there! Elsa

#### ~~~UPCOMING AT BETENU – MAY ~~~~

Saturday, May 5, 2012

#### Pajama Havdalah with Rahel & Sandra

4:00pm at Congregation Betenu, 5 Northern Blvd, Unit 1,

Come in your pajamas and join Rahel and Sandra for stories, music, arts and movement. We end with a Havdallah service. Bring friends!

FREE! Contact: Rahel: <u>rahel@rahelmusic.com</u>; (603) 554–1459

Sunday, May 6th at 1:15pm: Annual Crop Walk -

Betenu walkers encouraged to participate! Rahel (guitar, vocals) and Frank Rudolph (fiddle) are providing the music for the kick-off! Details here: http://svnhcropwalk.org/

#### Thursday May 10th 7pm Study with Rabbi Segal: Megillat Ruth

7:00pm at Congregation Betenu, 5 Northern Blvd, Unit 1, Amherst, NH 03031

Get ready for Shavuot. Rabbi Segal facilitates a discussion about Megillat Ruth.

FREE Contact: <a href="mailto:betenu@nii.net">betenu@nii.net</a>; (603) 886-1633

Sunday, May 13th - NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

#### Sunday May 20th LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

9-10:45 Regular Classes—10:45—12pm Class presentations, awards, diplomas and final report cards

12-1pm Teach Appreciation Luncheon

Sunday May 20th 2012 7:30 pm Betenu Annual Meeting

SHAVUOT is a unique opportunity to engage with our Betenu Community and learn about the Torah and our Jewish faith, lifestyle and traditions.

Watch your EMAIL for Flyer and contact information

B"H

#### TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Saturday, May 26th from 6:00pm Pot-Luck dinner & late night event!



Midrashic legends scold the Jewish people for sleeping the night before they received the Torah. Apparently G-D had to sound a shofar blast and bring thunder and lightning to wake them up. This is one reason why 16th century kabbalists in Tzfat, Israel, created Tikkun Leil Shavuot, repairing the eve of Shavuot. Originally the Tikkun consisted of readings from the Tanakh, the Talmud and the Kaballah, which would be studied all night long. It is customary to wear white, eat dairy & grains, decorate with greens & flowers, read Megillat Ruth, and study all night!

For more information: http://mazornet.com/holidays/Shavuot/customs.htm

#### Schedule:

6:00pm: Pot-luck dinner (dairy, grains, fruit only please!)

7:00-7:30pm: Tikkun Meditation with Rahel

7:30pm: Study sessions facilitated by Betenu members.

Guest facilitator: Ore Ayah Dagan, NH Israeli shlichah

9:05pm: Havdallah service 9:30pm: Study sessions continue!

## ADULT EDUCATION

#### HEBREW LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION, TORAH STUDY AND MORE

Bar / Bat Mitzvah... not the end of the road! There's Torah study with the Rabbi, Hebrew language instruction with Rahel, Kabbalah Havruta with Eitan Zeira, and plenty of other learning opportunities throughout the year. Maybe you have an idea, or would even like to teach a class. If so, contact the office 886-1633 or Betenu@nii.net.

Quench your thirst — jump into the well of Judaic studies.



(Rahel's classes are offered at a discount to Betenu members.)



#### ROSH CHODESH FOR WOMEN

Join the Rosh Chodesh group for a short service, group discussion and nosh. For more information contact Sheryl Liberman 424-4609 or SAML54@comcast.net.

#### KABBALAH GROUP

Saturdays at 12:30pm—about once every 3-4 weeks

Next date: May 26th at TBA

Congregation Betenu and Temple Beth Abraham have a Kabbalah group. We will be starting a new book. For more information contact Sheryl Liberman 424-4609 or SAML54@comcast.net.

Video of Sh'ma Meditation by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan: www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9bwEFS7Btk&feature=related



## **Donations in April**

Congregation Betenu acknowledges with appreciation the following contributions:

#### **General Fund:**

Boris Golosarky, Nora Kirsh, and an Anonymous Donation



#### **BETENU**





- **★** Thanks to the member who fixed the upstairs bathroom door. It no longer sticks. !!
- **Thank you Roberta Pavoll for all the Passover Seder Suppliers** and making the Haroset.
- All who helped organize the Seder
- **♦ Thank you Ore Dagan, our schlicha for her visit with our school children.**
- **⋄** Sonia Campeanu for her Talk on Zionism and Israel also, Sarah Becker for her presentation about Israel at the Yom Ha'Atzmaut event



## **May Yahrzeit List**



Pline in Plance	A in signal CF1-in Cal	N. 1
Elinoir Fierman	twin sister of Elaine Schwartz	May I
Ruth Cushner	aunt of Sheryl Liberman	May 4
Rebecca Groden	grandmother of Karen Satz	May 4
Saul Korins	father of Sarah Korins	May 8
Estelle Mailman	mother of Steve Mailman	May 10
Solomon Macks	grandfather of Elsa Conrad	May 12
Kheren Lillian Limor	daughter of	
	Chana Rahel & Gilead Yehuda	May 16
Sofia Munteanu	mother of Bety Dar	May 17
Elaine Rimalover	mother of Robert Rimalover	May 18
David Vincent Romanelli		May 21
Dylan Robinson	son of Lin Robinson	May 24
Zara Milamed	aunt of Sheryl Liberman	May 24
Batya (Bashi) bat Aharon	HaCohen v'Chai Gittel	
	aunt of Rahel Limor	May 25
Gertrude Wiener	mother of David Wiener	May 27

#### **COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**

### AS always – FOOD NEEDED!

The food pantries are in desperate need this year. Any donation would be appreciated. You may bring a food item directly to SHARE or the Nashua Soup Kitchen. If it is nonperishable, you may drop it off at Betenu (no scented products please) and we will deliver it to SHARE.

Wish lists: www.sharenh.org/food.html and www.nsks.org/CurrentWishList.asp
OTHER ITEMS

For a list of other items needed please see:

www.sharenh.org or 603-673-3660: seasonal clothes, new socks etc.

www.nsks.org/CurrentWishList.asp Questions? Call Carol at 889-7770 ext 21

## IT'S Registration time 2012-2013 (5773)

For Sunday Religious School

#### **Sunday Religious School Personnel**

VP Education: Sheryl Liberman Principal: Rahel Limor Hebrew: Sonia Campeanu Jewish Studies: Sandra Whitman Asst. Hebrew Teacher: Nina Matovka Madricha: Rachel Liff



We are coming to the close of another amazing year at our Betenu religious school. Our super staff has been doing an awesome job teaching Hebrew and about how we live our lives as Jews. Our students are happy and becoming very knowledgeable. We are very proud of how far they've come this year. This year the *Betenu Youth Group* (BYG) enjoyed some very cool outings and projects. The students always enjoy these opportunities to spend time together in addition to Sunday classes!

There is still time to <u>spend a day at school</u>. Classes will be meeting until May 20th. If you would like to bring your child(ren) for a visit, please contact the school Principal, Rahel Limor at: <u>rahel@rahelmusic.com</u>; (603) 554–1459

#### Schedule:

May 6 & 20

If you are currently enrolled and plan to continue next year, or if you are new and want to register your child(ren), *please complete the attached forms (one for each child!)* and return them with a check for \$54 per child by May 31st, 2012

We look forward to spending another year with you and your children!

Sincerely,

Rahel

Principal

#### Principal's message: Betenu Religious School 5772 (2011-2012)

As we come to the end of another school year at Congregation Betenu,

I will say that each year at Betenu seems to get better and better. We are blessed with an incredible warm, loving and professional staff which includes our Hebrew teachers, Sonia Campeanu and Nina Matovka, our Jewish studies teacher, Sandra Whitman, and her student assistant, Rachel Liff, and myself functioning as Principal, music teacher and worship lay-leader. I can't speak more highly of these teachers that I find myself blessed to be working with. They are the kind of role models that are not easy to find. They are dedicated to instilling a love of Judaism, Hebrew, and of the land & people of Israel in our young students.

They are devoted to education and to educating and inspiring our students to live a Jewish life and to become future Jewish leaders in whichever way that plays itself out.

This year our student body consisted of six (6) pre-k to first graders, and twelve (12) second to sixth graders, a total of eighteen (18) students. Throughout the year I watched the older students embrace the younger students; helping them find the right place in the siddur during worship, smiling as we sang songs and chanted prayers, and taking some of the younger students to sit on their laps! Our students really enjoy singing and some love to dance. Prayers and blessings were learned at T'fillah (worship) and were also learned and reinforced in classroom learning, and came alive when recited prior to having snack. Quite often the older students, even the second and third graders, helped out with the kindergarten class when given the opportunity.

Our school curriculum, based on the URJ's Chai Jewish studies and Mitkadem Hebrew programs, is presented according to each teacher's creativity. I have found that, when allowed creative license in presenting curriculum, both teachers and their students thrive, grow and flourish. Take a stroll through our classrooms and you will see the fruits of the creative endeavors of both staff and students!

Each year we enjoy the regular monthly visits with NH's Israeli shlichah (emissary). We enjoyed a second year with Ore Ayah Dagan, who provided the students with information and insights into life in Israel. We had a special treat when Ore appeared in her army uniform and shared her experiences in service as an I.D.F. soldier protecting and working with Israeli citizens.

Continued...

#### Continued

#### Principal's message: Betenu Religious School 5772 (2011-2012)

I must give a special "kol ha'kavod" (tribute) to our parents, especially those who have taken the lead in the formation of our Betenu Youth Group (BYG). Our student body is too young to become members of SAFTY, the local branch of the national youth group, NFTY. However, we felt it was important that our students become more involved with each other and with their Betenu Jewish community. The BYG sponsored and carried out some wonderful activities this year which included amongst them activities such as bowling and making seder plates. The students themselves took the initiative, guided by their teacher, Sandra Whitman, to plan an extended Pajama Havdallah event. They planned a pot-luck dinner menu and chose a movie. The event was so successful that it looks like it will become a regular feature in next year's BYG calendar!

I would like to give a nod to the Betenu Education Committee for their guidance and help each year. At times we must address some difficult issues and decisions. This year I am happy to say that we had very few challenges and instead we have been able to engage more in positive brainstorming!

All in all we've had a wonderful school year. Even the weather complied! We are sad to lose our amazing student aide, Rachel Liff, and we wish her much success at Brandeis University.

As we look towards next year, the Jewish year of 5773, I would like to encourage everyone to make greater efforts in reaching out to the greater NH Jewish community. Please take the initiative to tell people about our school; encourage them to visit and join our activities. When school is not in session they can always speak with me, Rahel. I will be happy to fill them in and even give them a tour of our facility. We would like to see our little Jewish community widen, grow and flourish.

Have a great summer and we'll see you next year!

Musically Yours,





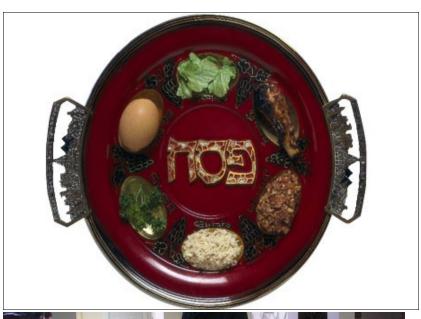
Following a short worship service, we had a special visit with Rabbi Joshua Segal.

The students enjoyed learning more about the synagogue, the role of the rabbi and all about the Torah.





## Our Religious School ~Pessach Sedar







## We observed Israel's 64th Independence Day

## ~Yom HaAtzmaut ~



Thursday April 26th



#### **COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**

# "Friendships and Memories to Last a Lifetime!"

A Quality Jewish Day Camp at an Affordable Price!









A co-ed day camp for children ages 4-16 Captain's Pond Salem, NH

A low camper/staff ratio
Create your own session with our Flex Schedule Option
FREE transportation from Nashua, Chelmsford, and Andover (Transportation from Manchester, add'l fee )

Red Cross swim instruction, athletics, archery, arts and crafts, Jewish cooking, Judaic culture, music, kayaks, waterbikes, paddleboats, workshops, choice, field trips, Family Nights, Parent/Camper Lunches, Family Day, Teen Leader Program, CIT Program, Lifeguard Training, Rockin' Shabbat, theme days, Camp Hadar Carnival, Color War, and more!

Open House: Sunday, May 20, 2012 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Camp Hadar

## Camp Hadar Welcomes our Resident Artist Jon Nelson

In addition to founding the groundbreaking, nationally acclaimed Jewish rock band, Yom Hadash, Jon is also an acclaimed children's entertainer & educator having performed hundreds of concerts for audiences across the country. Jon's music is heard on radio rotations in the USA, Canada, Israel and beyond.

This summer Jon will be working with all our campers, teaching about the Jewish culture through music and leading our new Rockin' Shabbat Program.







For more info about our programs and fees, please visit our website at camphadar.org.