As the Vilna Shul strengthens its role as an historic site, cultural venue and spiritual place in Boston, we look to our next goal—being an enriching presence on the north slope of Beacon Hill.

He watches over the street and park and has introduced many neighbors to each other. Our view on the Vilna Shul has shown it to be the personal invitation.

Nicholas Negroponte from the One-laptop-per-child program is speaking tonight; that was a pretty special event, and we appreciated to be a traditional wedding.

But just as important, we appreciate living across the street from a historic place which hosts so many wonderful spiritual and cultural events.

Some efforts are already underway. For example, we are in the early stages of establishing a Me’ah program (An intensive adult Jewish learning program of Hebrew College and Combined Jewish Philanthropies' Commission on Jewish Continuity & Education). This will become a traditional wedding.

The Shul.

Many have told us that we are already a place of learning. For many, the simple discovery of the Vilna begins the process of learning.

The Vilna Shul, congregation painted murals on the walls three times in the early years of the Shul. They brought this tradition with them when they immigrated to America.

The Vilna Shul. The walls of the Standing Room still bear the marks of the bright murals. We are working on the Standing Room walls to uncover a rich array of scenes and patterns that originally adorned the sanctuary walls. Twenty-five sites in Greater Boston have been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and an Advisory Committee comprised of historians, preservationists, and community leaders to create a list of sites.

The Vilna Shul.

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The Vilna Shul.

When we first came to an open house viewing of our future home on Phillips Street, we looked out the living room window across the street and immediately saw the beautiful facade of the Vilna Shul. That was just one reason why we made the decision to buy and move in.

When the “Reconnect to the Tapestry” historical exhibition was ready, Steven had planned a grand opening reception. He asked everyone to imagine that our future home would be filled with so many wonderful and spiritual cultural events.

We agreed not only to purchase the site, but also to a historic place which hosts so many wonderful spiritual and cultural events.

Join us in the coming months as we welcome guest speakers: writer and comedian Bill Novak on May 15th; young adult kosher restaurant owner and chef David Ranch on June 19th, and author and speaker Rachel Fish on July 17th.

We look forward to seeing you at future events!

The Vilna Shul.

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The Vilna Shul.
Things are happening at the Vilna

Things are happening at the Vilna. We have expanded our programming, restructured our tours, and are seeking funding for our important preservation project from April 14th until May 17th. To ensure our opportunity to move forward will not be lost, we have refocused our tours, and need your votes in the Partners in Preservation program—from April 14th until May 17th. To ensure our opportunity to move forward will not be lost, we have refocused our tours, and need your votes in the Partners in Preservation program. We are collaborating with other museums around Beacon Hill to create a North Slope tour that highlights the notable landmarks and contributions of this diverse and ever-changing slice of Boston. As a result, tourists and locals alike are no longer merely stumbling upon the Vilna Shul. They are actively seeking us out.

We have added two new tours. One focuses on the life and work of Solomon Schechter, founder of the Hebrew Union College, and the other on the life and work of Dr. David B. Starr, PhD, with the Vilna Shul as a case study in the history of American Jewish education. As a result, tourists and locals alike are no longer merely stumbling upon the Vilna Shul. They are actively seeking us out.

We have also expanded our calendar of events, or tell a friend about the Vilna, you bring us closer to realizing our goals.

Looking ahead towards the fall, I hope to see you at our annual Gala on September 13, 2009. The Vilna Shul will honor Rabbi David B. Starr, PhD, with the Vilna Shul as a case study in the history of American Jewish education. As a result, tourists and locals alike are no longer merely stumbling upon the Vilna Shul. They are actively seeking us out.
Things are happening at the Vilna

Things are happening at the Vilna. We have expanded our programming, reached out to new audiences, and serve the needs of our changing Jewish community.

Our programs include:

- **Art and Culture**: Engaging lectures on Jewish history, art, and culture. These events feature renowned speakers and artists, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights.

- **Community Building**: Classes and programs for Jewish singles, families, and groups, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

- **Education**: Comprehensive educational initiatives for all ages, from preschoolers to adults, including Hebrew language classes, Talmud studies, and more.

- **Jewish Heritage**: Programs that explore the rich history and diverse heritage of the Jewish people, offering a deeper understanding of our shared past.

- **Sukkot**: Annual celebration with traditional sukkah building, educational sessions, and festive meals.

- **Tu Bishvat**: Programs focusing on the Jewish holiday of Tu Bishvat, celebrating the new year of the trees.

- **Women's History Month**: Events highlighting the achievements and contributions of Jewish women throughout history.

- **Jewish Education**: Workshops and seminars for educators, providing professional development opportunities.

- **Yom Kippur**: Special programming and services for the High Holy Days, including study sessions, prayer services, and community meals.

- **Rosh Hashanah**: Programs marking the Jewish New Year, including spiritual explorations and community celebrations.

- **Hanukkah**: Festive programs celebrating the Festival of Lights, including menorah lightings and cultural events.

- **Passover**: Programs commemorating the Jewish holiday of Passover, with special readings, discussions, and community meals.

- **Shavuot**: Engaging programs celebrating the harvest and the giving of the Torah.

- **Yom Ha'atzmaut**: Events marking Israel Independence Day, with music, food, and cultural performances.

- **Yom Yerushalaim**: Programs honoring Jerusalem Day, exploring the Jewish connection to the Holy City.

- **Yom Haatzmaut HaOlamit**: International Liberation Day, celebrating the establishment of the State of Israel.

- **Yom Ha'atzmaut HaKoach**: Programs marking the Israeli Army Day, with military salutes and celebrations.

- **Tisha B'Av**: Special programs commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples, including study sessions and prayer services.

- **Shabbat Services**: Weekly services with guest speakers, musical performances, and community meals.

- **B'nai Mitzvah**: Preparatory classes and celebrations for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, providing spiritual guidance and cultural knowledge.

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•  We might even host a Daf Yomi, a one page of Talmud study per day or another form of Talmud study geared towards those who are
•  We could host a local Jewish scholar, who holds regular hours at the Vilna and invites all who are interested to come and ask questions.
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Haruvah on the Hill

Not too long after we moved in that spring, Steven Greenberg introduced himself and made us feel welcome. In no time, we

An open Question to the Vilna Shul Community

FROM OUR WINDOW / by Gesa Kirsch and Tony Schreiner

An open Question

TO THE VILNA SHUL COMMUNITY

We humbly ask you to consider a one-time gift to the Vilna Shul.

•  We might even host a Daf Yomi, a one page of Talmud study per day or another form of Talmud study geared towards those who are new to it.

The Vilna Shul has been a spiritual oasis for many years. In 1998, small patches of the three unique schemes of wall art were revealed. But due to funding
How can you make sure we are among the ten sites to receive a share of the $1 million? Vote! You and your friends can vote once daily through May 17, 2009 by visiting www.partnersinpreservation.com or our website, www.vilnashul.org, and voting for the Vilna. The historic site that receives the most votes is guaranteed $100,000 towards a project that will help preserve that site. Other sites will be selected by American Express, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and an Advisory Committee composed of Greater Boston site and preservation leaders. They will have their decision on the historic site selected by June 1, 2009.

What project would the $100,000 award at the Vilna? We plan to completely uncover the decorative murals painted in 1920 on the back wall of the women’s seating section in the historic sanctuary. Twenty-five sites in Greater Boston have been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in cooperation with American Express to be included in the 2009 Partners in Preservation Program (PiP). To celebrate being part of the Partners in Preservation Program and to thank you for your votes of support, we will have a special event.

With your help, we can secure $100,000 in matching funds to uncover what is “Just Beneath the Surface” at the Vilna Shul.

Vilna Shul

20 Philips Street
Boston, MA 02114-6356

The Vilna Shul

We look forward to seeing you at home events!

The Vilna Shul

Boston, MA

Visit us at online: www.vilnashul.org for the latest news and event listings

Haruvah on the Hill

From our Window / by Gesa Kirsch and Tony Schreiner

The Vilna Shul

Boston, MA

For Jewish Culture

18 Philips Street
Boston, MA 02114-6356

Partners in Preservation Letter from the President

Secrets of the Synagogue

A New Question

Our website: www.partnersinpreservation.com


doesn’t mean to divide the decision and begin the purchase.

Not too long after we moved in that spring, Steven Greenberg introduced himself and made us feel welcome. In no time, we become the festive group marching across the street and into the Shul; it turned out to be Havurah on the Hill also celebrating Purim with a pre-Purim Megillah reading and costume party. The celebration brought together 100 young adults from throughout Greater Boston. January’s event featured Tamar Morad, a local journalist who recently edited the book Jews and Judaism in Northern Africa and the Ottoman Empire. These 19th century schools were organized with the intention of westernizing Sephardi Jewish

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Why would they do it? Did they run out of money? Did they feel that beige walls were more American than bright murals?

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The personal invitation. has gone on to become a great success and continues to this day. Another time, Steven knocked on our door and said: “Come on over, for our stove and pots to cook a big mound of fingerling potatoes. Regrettably, there was a heavy snow storm on opening day, and not to be a traditional wedding.

Many tourists and tour groups that stop in front of the Shul or go in. We see the construction of the Sukkahs and enjoy the singing about an enriching and historical Jewish community. You have told us that the Vilna has allowed you to learn about your own Jewish heritage regardless of your style of participation in the Jewish community. Others have shared how the Vilna has helped to define or redefine their own

• We might even host a Daf Yomi, a one page of Talmud study per day or another form of Talmud study geared towards those who are new to it.

In 1998, small patches of the three unique schemes of wall art were revealed. But due to funding constraints, the project was on hold. The next step was to reveal and interpret the scenes and patterns that originally adorned the sanctuary walls.

Haruvah on the Hill

Visit us Online at: www.vilnashul.org for the latest news and event listings