

January: Celebrating Tu B'Shevat and Acknowledging our Role as Caretakers of this Good, Green Earth

*"All the trees were created for
man's enjoyment"*
(Midrash Bereshit Rabbah XIII:2)

On the third day of creation, God created "seed-bearing plants, fruit trees after their kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it" (Genesis 1:11). God then put Adam in the garden to "till it and tend it" (2:15), making humans stewards of the earth.



Since its founding, JNF has planted more than 240 million trees in Israel to protect the land, prevent soil erosion, green the landscape and preserve vital ecosystems. The trees maintain forest health, combat desertification, protect watersheds and manage water flow. Additionally, they create a 'green lung' to combat carbon dioxide emissions in the region. JNF's success at planting trees in Israel has resulted in naturally expanded forests and reclaimed deserts.

According to the Mishnah, where it is first mentioned, Tu B'Shevat - the 15th day of the month of Shevat - is the date used by farmers to calculate the year's crop yield and determine the tithe that the Bible requires. It also marks the beginning and end of the first three and four years of a tree's growth, during which it is forbidden to eat its fruit.

Tu B'Shevat - the New Year for Trees - is a time when trees start drinking the New Year's rainwater and the sun renews itself. As the Jewish Arbor Day, Tu B'Shevat embodies the strong dedication to ecology, environmentalism and conservation that Jewish National Fund has championed since its inception in 1901. This year, Tu B'Shevat falls on January 25th.

"Tu B'Shevat reminds us that no matter what happens, we all have to share this planet and care for it," said Russell F. Robinson, CEO of the Jewish National Fund.

During the early pioneer movement in late 18th and early 19th century Palestine, Jewish pioneers linked the environmentalism of Tu B'Shevat with the practice of planting trees in the land of Israel. In recent years, Jewish environmentalists adopted Tu B'Shevat as a "Jewish Earth Day," with organized Seders, tree-plantings and ecological restoration activities, as a way to express a specifically Jewish commitment to caring for nature and protecting the land.

In Israel, Tu B'Shevat is a time for families to get together, visit forests and plant trees. A 2002 poll showed that 93% of Israelis believe that Tu B'Shevat tree plantings are essential to enlarging the country's green belts. More than two million trees are planted annually in Israel during Tu B'Shevat alone.

Please see pages 2, 6 and 18 to learn how we, as a community and as individuals, can preserve the natural goodness of our country and our world.



Schedule of Services

Friday, January 7

Vaera, Exodus 6.2-9.35
Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M.
Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, January 8

Minyan Service, 9:00 A.M. Gross Chapel
Tot Shabbat, 9:00 A.M.
Bar Mitzvah of David Mendel, 10:15 A.M.
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Levenberg,
10:45 A.M.

Friday, January 14

Bo, Exodus 10-13.16
Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M.
Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, January 15

Minyan Service, 9:00 A.M. Gross Chapel
B'not Mitzvah of Rachel Terry and
Julie Reiter, 10:15 A.M.

Friday, January 21

Beshalach, Exodus 13.17-17.16
Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 22

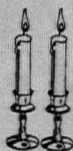
Minyan Service, 9:00 A.M.
B'nai Mitzvah of Katherine Dreyfuss,
Marisa Karchin and Jake Schneider,
10:15 A.M.

Friday, January 28

Yitro, Exodus 18-20
Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M.
Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

JANUARY 7	4:26 P.M.
JANUARY 14	4:34 P.M.
JANUARY 21	4:42 P.M.
JANUARY 28	4:50 P.M.



Clergy

Rabbi Daniel M. Cohen, D.Min.
Rabbi Ellie Lynn Miller
Rabbi Harvey S. Goldman, D.Min., D.D.,
Rabbi Emeritus

Rabbi Herbert Weiner, Rabbi Emeritus
Cantor Theodore Aronson
Joan Finn, Cantorial Soloist

Lay Leadership

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Barbara Stoller, VP
Ed Schwarz, VP
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Elizabeth Best, R.J.E., Religious School
Carol Paster, Preschool

Program Director

Tracy Horwitz

Bulletin

Sunny Seglin

The Bulletin is published
eleven times yearly.

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UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM**

Contact us at info@tsti.org
Visit our website at www.tsti.org

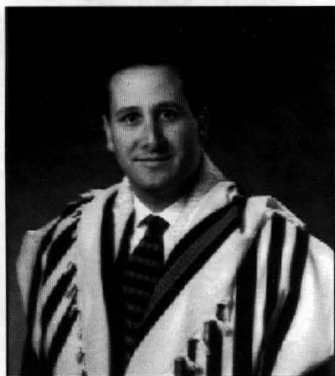
TSTI Partners with GreenFaith



Rev. Fletcher Harper

On Friday, January 14, the Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of the interfaith coalition GreenFaith, will speak at Friday evening services about the ethical, religious basis for protecting the environment. GreenFaith, one of the organizations (with COEJL) directing the "Greening Synagogues-Sustainable Sanctuaries" program in which Temple Sharey Tefilo Israel will be participating, works with New Jersey houses of worship from a wide range of religious traditions, helping them engage environmental concerns from a religious perspective.

An Episcopal priest, Harper served as a parish priest for ten years prior to beginning his work with GreenFaith. He is a recognized preacher and public speaker and an award-winning spiritual writer. He has spoken in Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist synagogues around New Jersey, in addition to Catholic and Protestant churches, Mosques, and Buddhist centers. On the 14th, he will introduce TSTI to the different components of the Greening Synagogues-Sustainable Sanctuaries program and offer a theological foundation for environmental care.



From the Rabbi's Study

Dear Friends,

As the issue of the separation between church and state focused on the performance of religious music at holiday concerts last month, placing Columbia High School in the media limelight, another, more subtle, church-state issue emerged. It is one that has the potential to impact all religious institutions in our nation. In late October, our Congress passed the 2005 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. This act makes \$25 million available to help with security funding for "high risk nonprofits," often understood to include houses of worship and parochial schools including synagogues and Jewish day schools. Because of this act, each congregation will now have to determine whether or not to apply for such grant money.

At first consideration, applying for such money might seem like a good thing. After all, in the past few years we have updated our security system, increased our congregational vigilance, and increased security even further at times deemed appropriate for such increases. All of this has put an additional burden on an already stretched congregational budget. Why wouldn't we apply for additional monies (even though once spread over the potential 300,000 plus institutions who can apply for the funds, there is far less available than it first appears)?

Upon closer examination, however, it becomes apparent to many of us that this is a clear violation of church-state separation. If we, as a synagogue, take a position that accepting even \$1.00 of this money does not violate the Constitution, we will have legitimized many of the key arguments that have been made by the Religious Right and other opponents of church-state separation over the past decade. In doing so, we open the door to parochial aid and government funding of religion. Moreover, taking such an action endorses the concept of government neutrality to religion in direct opposition to the non-establishment clause of our Constitution which has protected religious life in America from government interference so well. In addition, congregations that accept such money will find that their decision undermines any capacity to lobby against school prayer, parochial aid, or the placement of religious symbols in government buildings — all of which are under attack by those who want to diminish the separation between church and state.

It is for these reasons that the 70 member Executive Board of the Union for Reform Judaism (our national movement leadership) issued a statement that notes:

"The Union for Reform Judaism strongly opposed this legislation as a serious violation of church-state separation and is recommending that synagogues not participate in these programs."

It is also why the officers of our congregation and I will unanimously recommend to the Board of Trustees that TSTI not apply for such monies, even as we encourage our local authorities to continue to seek federal dollars to aid in the protection of our entire community.

The document issued by our Reform Movement and the religious action center of Reform Judaism (which can be found on our Temple website) ends with the following:

"The separation of church and state in this country has allowed religion to flourish here, unmatched among all democratic nations. This is one of America's unique gifts to civilization and the chief guarantor of our religious liberty. Now, as we press forward in the fight against terror, we must not abandon the very ideals and freedoms upon which our country stands. This legislation, though earnest and compassionate in intent, seriously weakens the wall separating church and state, this vital protector of religious liberty for all Americans, and in doing so, adversely affects the long term well being of American Jewry."

I encourage you to read the entire document on our web site and would welcome your perspective. Also, please know that we are constantly reviewing our temple's security measures to ensure that our temple family is as safe and secure as possible.

Rabbi Daniel M. Cohen

JOIN US FOR THE NOISY SERVICE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
6:30 P.M.

- A Shabbat experience for families with young children
- There is no "Shushing" and no need to leave the sanctuary if your child is a little . . . well, noisy.
- A chance to relax and enjoy a child oriented Shabbat with other moms, dads and kids.
- The service begins promptly at 6:30 and ends by 7:00



DARSHAN ANNOUNCED FOR FEBRUARY REGIONAL SHABBATON

Rabbi Lance Sussman, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA will be the *Darshan* at the 2005 Regional Shabbaton. The event, to be held on *Shabbat*, February 26, 2005 at Temple Emanu-El, Westfield, NJ, will highlight the 120th anniversary of the Pittsburgh Platform, the nation's first comprehensive statement of the principles of Reform Judaism. Rabbi Sussman's talk will focus on "The Beauty of Holiness: Reform Jewish Worship."

The Regional *Shabbaton* has become increasingly popular every year, providing a complete *Shabbat* experience, from *Torah* study, through morning worship services, lunch, including *z'mirot* led by a regional song-leader, to workshops led by regional clergy, and concluding with a moving *Havdalah* service.

For additional information and registration materials, contact Paul Kaufman at the Regional Office - 201-722-9090, Ext. 201, or by e-mail at: pkaufman@urj.org

A Precious Gift from YIVO

The modern day is particularly troubling with so many examples of history repeating its horrific self. I am writing this, however, to share with you a wonderful, enlightening historic experience I had.

Years ago when going through my mother's boxes of family mementos, she and I came across a 15 page hand written document in what appeared to be Hebrew. My mother explained that her father had written this document many years ago, and that she had found it among his papers when he died. Unable to translate Hebrew, she had no idea what the document said. As with any family photos and mementos, I asked if I could have it, and my mother, used to my requests and pleased with my desire to preserve our family history, gave me the document. My mother also knew that her father had been very special to me, always proud of me, and never critical. Who wouldn't like that? In fact, I had named my oldest son after him, in recognition of the special place he held in my heart. I am ashamed to say that I left this document to sit in yet another box, this time in my house for several years.

A year and a half ago my mother was celebrating her 80th birthday. My uncle was hosting a birthday party and as he likes to do on such occasions, he asked for contributions to a scrapbook reflecting memories with my Mom. I remembered my grandfather's document. I asked Cantor Aronson if he knew who could translate the Hebrew for me, and he quickly pointed out that although written in Hebrew characters, the document was in fact in Yiddish. Cantor suggested that I contact YIVO, the Institute for Jewish Research, in NYC.

I e-mailed YIVO expressing my need for assistance, and of course my willingness to pay. I received an immediate response asking that I send them a copy of the document, and that, free of charge, they would arrange for its translation by one of their staff, most of whom are volunteers.

A few months later, I received the most incredible package. Esther Newman, a YIVO volunteer, sent me a hand written translation. My grandfather wrote of his childhood in Russia, of his own beloved grandparents, of his education in Minsk, and finally of his escape and passage to America. To read of his border crossing and the singing of freedom songs was overwhelming. In my effort to give my mother a gift, I was provided with the gift of my Grandfather's voice, the voice of my heritage. It is a true treasure. Needless to say, my mother's birthday was even more special when I shared with her, and the rest of my family, her father's memoirs.

As a postscript, I inquired at YIVO about Esther Newman, the translator, and whether I could make a financial gift to her to show my appreciation for her work. I received a lovely note from Esther explaining that her ability to speak and translate Yiddish was her gift to YIVO, and that any financial gift I wished to make should be to YIVO, to help further preserve my heritage. I took Esther's advice. If any of you are interested in contacting YIVO, please note the following:

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Contact I used was Mr. Leo Greenbaum, Associate Archivist at Lgreenbaum@YIVO.cjh.org

To learn of my Grandfather's struggles to obtain his freedom and the right to practice his faith has taught me what is truly important. He would be honored and proud of me that I share this with all of you.

Susan Young



INTERFAITH OUTREACH

DISCUSSION SERIES: ENCOURAGING JEWISH CHOICES

FIRST SESSION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 FROM 3-5 P.M.

"Opening Doors: A Discussion on Interfaith Family Issues"

This new program will meet over the course of six weeks to discuss issues and concerns that confront interfaith families and couples where one partner is either a non-Jew or a Jew-by-Choice. The setting will provide a framework for open and frank discussions within a comfortable, non-judgemental, supportive environment. Participants will have the opportunity to talk informally, set their own agenda and make new friends.

Possible topics for discussion include:

Holiday observations and life cycle events

Options for raising children

Clarification of Jewish traditions and practices

Where do we fit in?

The session begins on Sunday, January 9th and runs for six consecutive weeks. The group will meet from 3-5 pm and babysitting will be available for those who request in advance. Refreshments will be served. Size will be limited.

For further information and/or to pre-register, please email Jennifer Larson, Outreach Chair, at jrltsti@comcast.net.

Chai Learners

Presenting three wonderful opportunities to study with the Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class and fellow congregants as we learn with

Dr. Carol Ochs

Tuesdays 7:45PM-9:00PM

January 11 God in Torah

January 25 Reaching Godward:
Voices from Jewish Spiritual Guidance

February 1 God Concepts for today
and developing a personal theology

There is no fee for Temple Members. The fee for Non-Members is \$5 per session. Registration is required so that we have space for everyone. RSVP to Susan Freeman at 973-763-4116.

Dr. Carol Ochs is Director of Graduate Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York where she also teaches philosophy and serves as spiritual guide for rabbinic and cantorial students. She is the author of eight books:

Reaching Godward:

Voices from Jewish Spiritual Guidance

Our Lives as Torah:

Finding God in Our Own Stories

Jewish Spiritual Guidance (with Kerry Olitzky)

Song of the Self:

Biblical Spirituality and Human Holiness

The Noah Paradox:

Time as Burden, Time as Blessing

An Ascent to Joy:

Transforming Deadness of Spirit

Women and Spirituality

Behind the Sex of God:

Towards a New Consciousness Transcending Matriarchy and Patriarchy



Linda and Rudy Slucker Religious School

Thirty-two hundred years ago a people entered a land that had been promised to them by their God. They were commanded to plant trees in this land and not to wantonly destroy them. Today, you, me and millions of Jews across the world honor these commandments and all their implications through the celebration of Tu B'Shevat.

Tu B'Shevat urges us to renew our efforts in the fulfillment of the commandment to stop wanton destruction of our environment or Bal Tashchit. This commandment specifically forbids the cutting down of fruit-bearing trees. However, the greatest philosophers of our tradition including Maimonides have demonstrated that this mitzvah goes well beyond the boundaries of protecting fruit trees. They believe that the seminal idea of this mitzvah is addressing the relationship of human beings to the natural world.

To quote Rabbi Saul Berman Associate Professor of Jewish Studies at the Stern College of Yeshiva University, 'The Torah teaches us the lesson of the inviolability of nature, of our need to make symbolic and real affirmation of nature's original order in defiance of humankind's manipulative interference.'

In order to help establish a new relationship with our environment, the Linda & Rudy Slucker Religious School will be giving out to each of our Religious School families a **Water Restrictor**. It has been calculated that when secured to a kitchen, bathroom, shower and bath faucet, one family can save 39,000 gallons of water over a one year period. Multiply that by 500 school families and as a community, we have saved 19,500,000 gallons of water in a year. Together we do make a difference.

Happy Tu B'Shevat

Elizabeth Best, RJE
Religious School Director

HOLD THE DATES

2nd Grade January 9th Torah Study

Early Session Students & Parents 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Late Session Students & Parents 11:00AM -1:00 PM

Enrichment Class trip January 16th

An opportunity to learn and explore the Jewish Family Museum with Elizabeth Best

6th Grade January 16th

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Education

Early Session Students & Parents 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Late Session Students & Parents 11:00AM -1:00 PM

3rd Grade January 23rd Torah Study

Early Session Students & Parents 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Late Session Students & Parents 11:00AM -1:00 PM

Kindergarten January 30th Bedtime Rituals

Join Rabbi Miller and your children as you learn to create sacred time with you children
Early Session & Late Session Students & Parents should attend from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM in lieu of regular classes

WATCH FOR DETAILS ON THESE GREAT
UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR YOU AND YOUR
CHILDREN

Sharey Ateed High School

Our 8th-12th Graders will begin their 2nd cycle of courses on Tuesday January 4th. We are looking forward to the Confirmation class participating in our rotation of classes this cycle. We are excited to continue offering new and innovative classes to our students including Rabbi Miller's class on guitar.

Thank you

A special thank you to all of our teaching, student and custodial staff for helping to make Chanukamania such a wonderful experience for all of our Religious School families.

Fran Miller
Family Education Coordinator



The Iris Family



Twenty-two years ago when my daughter, Jamie, was born I remember how excited our families were. Every visit to a relative or friend was a huge event. Jamie was the center of attention. Grandparents vied for her affection. Aunts and uncles couldn't wait to get their hands on her. Squeals of, "Oh, look. She smiled at me" or "Look how big she's getting" only confirmed that she was very much loved.

But what about me? One minute I was the one in the spotlight, carrying the future 'heir to the throne' and the next minute I was invisible. The family was so busy cootchy-cooing my sweet bundle of joy they didn't notice that I needed some attention, too. For the first few months I assumed my feelings were due to post-partum blues and lack of sleep, but as the first year passed, I became very aware of how isolated I was becoming. After all, up until recently, I had been working full-time, had recently moved into an unfamiliar town, had not yet connected to my neighbors and certainly knew no other young mothers.

Eventually, I enrolled my daughter in a local preschool, not so much for her socialization, but for mine. While Jamie learned to share and cope with separation, I was busy making play date arrangements, not for my child, but for me. I soon learned that I was in the minority. I had chosen to make my family my priority. My full-time career would be put on hold until Jamie and later, her brother Alex, were in public school. I wanted to be home with my children. I would arrange a play date, hopefully looking to this social event as a time for me to commiserate with another mom, ask questions that I was too stubborn to ask my own mother, and possibly to build a friendship, only to find that my new friend was the nanny. Jamie wasn't one to let me leave easily in new situations, so I'd be playing with her and the playmate while the nanny did laundry, made dinner or napped in another room. This was not what I had envisioned.

As director of the Preschool, my first inclination when taking prospective families on a tour of the building or greeting already enrolled families on the carpool line is to cootchy-coo the children and win them over with my charm and wit. I consciously have to remind myself to also make eye contact with the mommy, to remember her name and to offer a knowing smile. I try to remember that she may not have extended family living nearby, she may not yet have a

close friend and may have questions to ask that she is to embarrassed to ask her own mother.

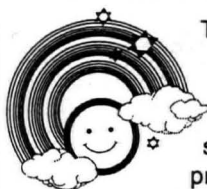
Hopefully, the Iris Family Preschool fills the gap for new parents as they try to make connections in their community. In an effort to make this transition easier, we have begun offering adult classes that I affectionately call the "What About Me?" program. While their children are in school and the other mommies are off at exciting careers, those who are available can now take a yoga class, learn about diet and nutrition, become a gourmet cook or relieve stress through kickboxing.

For those of you who are stay at home mommies, or retired grandparents and feeling lonely or isolated from your own families, please feel free to call me in the preschool office (973-763-4600) or email me a cpaster@tsti.org for information or with questions or suggestions for upcoming classes.

Carol Paster

Preschool Director

Save the Date for:
Rebecca Frezza and Big Truck
in concert March 13th
Sponsored by the Iris Family Preschool

TOT SHABBAT

Tot Shabbat, a special Saturday morning service just for preschoolers, their families, and their friends in the Jewish community, is held on the second Saturday of each month. Join us at **9:00 A.M.** on **January 22** for a wonderful Shabbat experience!

SHABBAT STORYTIME

A story and crafts project will be presented on **Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Bet Tefillah.

Renaissance Group

We do not have an activity scheduled for January, but we felt we needed to take the opportunity to wish all of our friends a "HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR" for the year of 2005 on our secular calendar.

Our Chanukah party on December 7, was a warm, family-like evening. The food was delicious, and latkes provided by our own members complemented the meal to keep it in the traditional manner. The young man who led us in song helped to add to the festivity. Please remember that we are having our Day of Games on Sunday, February 6 to coincide with the Super Bowl football game. We will play table games and watch the two teams who will be competing on a football field.

Our next activity will be the trip to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on Wednesday, March 2.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Washington, D.C. trip planned for Friday to Sunday, May 13-15. The committee co-chairpersons, Frankie Weiss and Linda Kirsch, need to make the necessary arrangements well in advance, so we will be asked to commit our intentions early. Watch your mail and be sure to respond promptly if you are planning to go on what sounds like a very special excursion.

Best wishes for a wonderful year - 2005.

Florence Seglin



sisterhood



All Temple women are invited to join us
Thursday, January 20, 2005 as we learn
Israeli Dancing!!!!

Wear comfortable
clothes & sneakers

Learn New Dances
Remember Old Favorites

Meet, greet and nosh at 7:00 p.m.
Dancing from 7:30-9:00 p.m.
in the Mansion

It's a great way to meet new people, enjoy your Temple friends, get some exercise, prepare for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs...or just have fun!

Andrea Baum and **Arlene Gordon**, who teach dance in our own Religious School, will show us how to kick up our heels and abandon our cares!

Please RSVP to Andrea Baum at andrea_baum@yahoo.com or Arlene Gordon at jecasago@aol.com or call Temple to let us know you'll be there.

Would you like to make this a Mother-Daughter night? You are more than welcome to bring your teenage daughter.

Mitzvah Mindfulness

Consultation on Conscience Sunday, March 13-Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Are you feeling like you want to work harder on political action? Join Jewish leaders and advocates from across the nation in Washington, DC to hear from key policy and government leaders about the issues that shape our lives, to explore the connection between ancient Jewish texts and current events. Participants learn about the most current political issues, techniques, and how to apply this information to synagogue social action programming. In the past, congregations that have brought a group have developed stronger social action and advocacy skills that are brought back to the congregation. In addition to strengthening the group's work, the group also receives a discount of \$10-\$20 per person when a group of 5 or more register together. Start planning today to insure that you are able to organize a delegation for the March Consultation. For more information, visit the Religious Action Center's website at www.rac.org, email: consultation@rac.org or call 202.387.2800. If you want to talk about organizing a delegation from TSTI, contact Jen Larson at jrltsti@comcast.net or Jill Kushner at jillmkushner@yahoo.com

to the TSTI website (<http://www.tsti.org>) and click on the Mitzvah Committee (or just go to <http://www.tsti.org/committees.html#mitzvah>) you can

see 3 things that will be of great use to you in your search for meaningful Mitzvot:

- A wonderful slide show that traces the progress of a subfloor put up by Chairs Dennis Percher, Barbara Laub, and their Habitat volunteers

- A Mitzvah Directory that will help you find places to volunteer

- A link to Ziv, the organization that will give you ideas and inspire you to do Mitzvot. If you go to Ziv, you may want to order Danny Siegel's new book, *The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Mitzvah Book: A Practical Guide for Changing the World Through your Simcha*. It is an absolute find, offering suggestions about how to integrate Mitzvahs more meaningfully into this important event in your family's life. It also shares why it is so important to do so.

Ever wondered if the Temple has a library? We do; however, the library needs your help. Anyone interested in helping to revive and maintain the library, please contact Susan Sommer at 973-763-0944 or ssommer@somdsd.k12.nj.us.

Would any of you like to help him get this started?

Ken's idea is to start a mentor program for our pre & post Bar Mitzvah & Bat Mitzvah children in which they would work with inner city children within their city schools or communities. The purpose of the mentor program would be to enable TSTI children to experience life outside their "comfortable community" by working with children "less fortunate" than themselves.

The mentor program would initially be sports oriented. We would look for TSTI children who had a true passion for a particular sport (ie. basketball or tennis) and wanted to share their expertise with less fortunate children who were interested in learning the sport.

Ken will coordinate the offsite "clinics" once we find a school or children's organization that embraces our offer to help teach their kids.

If you're interested in helping Ken to brainstorm and start organizing this effort, email Ken at Knadel1@aol.com or call him at 973-376-6339. This would be an excellent project for parents and kids to do together.

Jill Kushner

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to Jen Larson for mentioning the ^{Ken Nadel has a great idea.} <http://www.njfoodbank.org/> where you can make a virtual effort to help the Community Foodbank of New Jersey. Go to their website and "shop" for food that is needed. You will know that you're buying exactly what people need.
We're up and running! If you go



Let's Celebrate Shabbat Together at the 3rd Annual



Shabbat in the Home

Shabbat B'Bayit שבת בבית

Friday, February 4, 2005

Imagine this ... attending services, looking around and seeing faces that you know and some you don't, feeling happy to be part of a community and knowing that you will be part of a more intimate Shabbat gathering. Try this ... the third annual Shabbat B'Bayit ... Shabbat in the Home. Many Temple families have agreed to host Shabbat dinners in their homes on Friday, February 4, bringing together two or three additional families for an evening of:

- Encountering new and familiar Temple members
- Exchanging ideas and traditions
- Elevating spiritual experiences through shared observance
- Eating a great dinner
- Enjoying Shabbat together

If you have signed up to be part of this event, you will receive the name and address of your host family after a brief service at Temple at 6:00 p.m. Then, off you go! All you have to bring is dessert and an appetite for great company and food. Join TSTI for this wonderful evening of warmth and hospitality as together we kindle the Sabbath lights.

By now you have received your invitation and sign-up form in the mail. Please fill it out and return it so you can be part of this wonderful evening.

Chairpersons Robin Kahn rockin@aol.com
 Randi Butcher randi_butcher@yahoo.com
 Committee: Janice Lippman, Pam Paro, Cindy Sonnabend, Shari Stein



Robin Kahn lights the Shabbat candles at one of the many home-hosted dinners sponsored by Shabbat B'Bayit last year.

SAVE THE DATE

Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel's
8th Annual



**Family
Camp**

Weekend

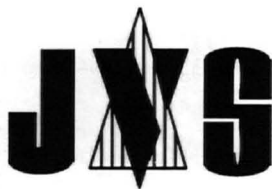
Camp Nah-Jee-Wah

June 10th – June 12th, 2005

Conversations...



Michael Sachs, Northeast Regional Director of AIPAC addressed his listeners about how our presidential election affects Israel's future at Conversations November 7 program.



**OUR JOB SEEKERS INCLUDE QUALIFIED,
EXPERIENCED:**

ACCOUNTANTS & FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES
& INVESTMENT MANAGERS & ENGINEERS
& ADMINISTRATORS & ANALYSTS & SOCIAL
SERVICE PROFESSIONALS & HUMAN
RESOURCE MANAGERS & INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS &
PROGRAMMERS & MANUFACTURING
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JERSEY

Conversations...

Sunday, January 16

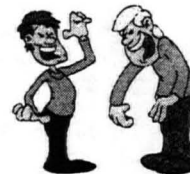
6:00 P.M.

PIZZA NIGHT and movie: Elmer Gantry (1960)
an "authentic and engrossing" film from Sinclair
Lewis' famous novel. Tickets are \$10. Admission for
pizza lovers is \$15.

BROTHERHOOD

INVITES YOU TO
STEP UP TO THE PLATE

GO TO THE GAME!



NFL PIZZA PARTY

co-hosted with the Iris Family Preschool
Sunday, January 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Place: TSTI

GIVE MOM A BREAK - Bring your kids, friends or your favorite
cousin and come watch the first round of the NFL Play-offs
with Brotherhood. You don't need to be a member to enjoy
this great event. There will be Food and Drinks for everyone
and entertainment for kids who are too young to appreciate a
hard hitting NFL Clash.

BASKETBALL FAMILY OUTING TO WATCH SETON HALL VS RUTGERS

Saturday, January 22 at Noon

Place: Continental Airlines Arena

Price: \$20 per Ticket

To Reserve your place:

- 1) E-mail your name, address, phone and e-mail address to
jesnles.bayer@att.net;
- 2) Fax the completed form to (973) 275-1397 or (212) 743-
0649; or
- 3) Return the attached form to TSTI c/o TSTI Brotherhood.
Please respond by January 15.



- **Brotherhood's Annual Raffle to support STISY** - Last
Year's Raffle raised in excess of \$2300 for our Temple
Youth. Watch your mailbox for raffle tickets and a chance
to win some great electronics prizes.

Any questions, please contact Jesse Bayer at
jesnles.bayer@att.net

SETON HALL vs RUTGERS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

email _____

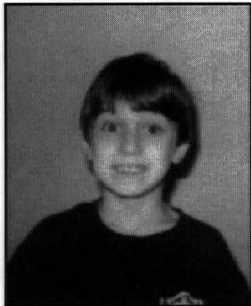
of tickets _____

Mazel Tov To Our B'nai Mitzvah



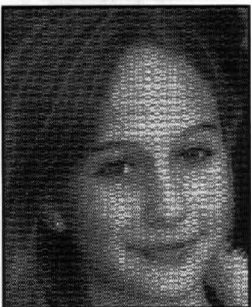
David Ross Mendel, son of **Nancy** and **Gregory Mendel**, looks forward to his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 8. Joining him will be his sister, Erica, and grandmother, Juliet Warshauer. David enjoys social studies and Spanish at Millburn Middle School, and loves baseball, tennis and basketball. His "Mitzvah Project" involves weekly visits to a wonderful boy who has special needs, arranged by The Friendship Circle.

David says of this milestone, "My Jewish education has given me the knowledge and understanding to become a better person in the world. I look forward to sharing my Bar Mitzvah celebration with my family and friends."



Aaron Benjamin Levenberg, son of **Rachel** and **Joel Levenberg**, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 8. Grandparents Milton Levenberg and Rabbi David Greenberg, and sisters, Ruth and Julia, look forward to celebrating with him. Aaron enjoys science at Millburn Middle School, and finds spare time for learning about training his Siberian husky puppy. His "Mitzvah Project" involved visiting the elderly at Daughters of Israel in West Orange.

Aaron says, "My Bar Mitzvah is a chance to celebrate my achievements with my family and friends. I look forward to more happy occasions involving Judaism and my heritage."



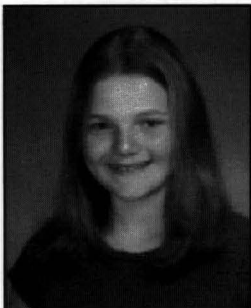
Julie Margaret Reiter will be called to the Torah on Saturday, January 15. With her will be her parents, **Lyn** and **Glenn Reiter**, grandparents Helene and Sy Frieland and Verna and Ed Beckhorn, and siblings Ben and Diana. Julie attends Montclair-Kimberly Academy and especially enjoys English, soccer, drawing and reading. She will be helping at a local food pantry to complete her "Mitzvah Project."

"Becoming a Bat Mitzvah will be one of the most important events in my life. I look forward to showing my family and friends that I am no longer a child but a young adult, and to strengthening my relationship and connection to God," says Julie.



Rachel Ann Terry, daughter of **Bernard** and **Yudit Terry**, looks forward to Saturday, January 15 when she will become a Bat Mitzvah. Her brothers, Alon and Ari, and grandfather Boris Kavartovsky share her pride in her achievements. Rachel, a seventh grader at Far Brook School, loves science and playing the drums and piano. She is also a member of a synchronized competitive swimming team. Her "Mitzvah Project" has her spending a few hours a week with a special needs girl, arranged by The Friendship Circle.

"Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means taking part in the same tradition as my brothers, father and grandfathers did generations before me. Being part of this chain is what makes my Bat Mitzvah special to me," says Rachel.



Katherine Marielle Dreyfuss will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 22, with her parents, **Lillian Pliner** and **Stephen Dreyfuss**, sister Caroline, and grandparents Mariette and Jacques Pliner and Janet Dreyfuss celebrating with her. Kate likes science and French and playing the violin. She is a seventh grader at the Pingry School.

Her musical talents led her to form a group of musicians and singers who performed at a Jewish assisted living facility as her "Mitzvah Project."

Kate notes, "Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am accepted in the Jewish community as an adult."



Mazel Tov To Our B'nai Mitzvah



Marisa Rachel Karchin, daughter of **Julie** and **Louis Karchin** will be called to the Torah on Saturday, January 22. Joining her is her sister, Danielle and grandparents Samuel Sirota and Beverly Sirota. Marisa's favorite subject at Millburn Middle School is social studies. She also enjoys tennis, guitar and singing. For her "Mitzvah Project" she and six friends are performing Broadway and classical songs at a local assisted living residence.

"Becoming a Bat Mitzvah," says Marisa, "means that I realize that as a Jewish person I have responsibilities to my family, friends and community."



Jake Matthew Schneider, son of **Cheryl Schneider** and the late **Ian Schneider**, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 22. Grandparents Reggie and Bob Fisher and Terry Schneider, and sisters Rachel and Sophie, look forward to celebrating with him. Jake enjoys social studies and language arts at Millburn Middle School, and finds spare time for snowboarding, tennis and reading. Because of his love for reading, he will read to elderly residents of local nursing homes for his "Mitzvah Project." Jake says, "Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means becoming an adult in the Jewish community. I look forward to continuing my Jewish education and learning more about Jewish traditions."



Joshua Samuel Miller, son of **Deborah** and **Ross Miller**, looks forward to his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 29. Joining him will be his sister, Jessica, and grandmother, Vicky Moosen. Josh attends Heritage Middle School and math, soccer, basketball and baseball. He has taught and played soccer with special needs children through Soccer Circle 10 for his "Mitzvah Project."

Josh says of this milestone, "I will be viewed as an adult member of the community. I will live up to these responsibilities as a Jew and as a man and continue my Hebrew studies."



Sara Olivia Alpert will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 29. She is the daughter of **Robin** and **Irwyn Alpert**, sister of Ross and granddaughter of Max Katz. At Millburn Middle School, Sara likes language arts and is a peer leader and student council member. She also enjoys basketball and softball. For her "Mitzvah Project" she participates in the "Reach" program, eating lunch with the students in the Life Skills Program. She is donating money to three charities in honor of her guests.

Sara notes, "I will follow in the footsteps of my mother and grandmother as I take on my role as a young woman in the Jewish community."

B'nai Mitzvah Share in Concert

We would like to invite all congregants and friends to attend the Shabbat Service on Friday, January 21st, at 7:30 p.m., when a classical music composition by Louis Karchin, written in honor of his daughter, Marisa Karchin's Bat Mitzvah, will be performed. The piece is a musical

setting of the 23rd Psalm, for soprano, violin and piano, and will be sung in Hebrew. All three of the children becoming B'nai Mitzvah the next day will participate in this performance. Jake Schneider will read the Psalm and a brief commentary, Marisa Karchin will sing the soprano part, and Kate Dreyfuss will play the violin. Mr. Karchin will perform the keyboard accompaniment.

Project SHIN Nurse

As I write this article, it has rained most of the day followed by heavy winds and then a beautiful bright blue sky. Winter is upon us. Some will bask in the ski weather; some will grin and bear it while still others find themselves a little more homebound. The challenge is to make a path to find joy, laughter and love.

There are at least 101 ways to brave the winter and make it an opportunity. We can enjoy the indoor warmth, savor the outdoor landscape while still eating well, doing some exercise and being social. Take advantage of listening to calming music or old classics and perhaps going down memory lane will take you to a very warm time in your life. Try your hand at a new skill like drawing or painting and no one has to see it unless you want to share it. Do a puzzle, read a book, listen

to a book on tape or have someone read to you. Bring a plant indoors. Invite a friend over to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or hot tea and the delicious homemade cookies you just baked. Play a lively game of Rummicube, Othello, chess or cards. Once or twice a week, take any of the Dorot classes over the telephone with a teacher or facilitator and twelve other telephone friends learning about art, music, literature, politics, yoga, or do exercise or join in a support group in the comfort of your own home (call Fran Rod at (973) 763-1511 for more information). Go through your old cookbooks for an interesting new food or old recipe, buy the ingredients, make and enjoy it or maybe even invite a friend or acquaintance over for a pot luck meal. Maybe make enough so that you can freeze a couple of

portions for another rainy day. Bake cookies or applesauce, even in the microwave, so your house smells good for awhile. Write about your life or a special experience. Call a friend, a child or grandchild or other relative and make a connection, even plan a visit at your place.

I think you have the picture..... take a chance and stay connected. Take a chance and try something new that just might carry you through until spring. It is definitely hard to overcome feeling sorry for ourselves, or to shake the "I can't do it" attitude. There are many paths to take, we just have to make the glass half full and use the tools in our toolbox of life. Oh.... SMILE, it's catchy!!!!!!

Stay warm and safe,

Claire Akselrad
Project SHIN Nurse

Temple Members Make Blood Bank Proud

On Sunday, December 5, 2004, we did it again! Sixty-five dedicated Temple members donated life-saving blood to our annual blood bank held concurrently with Chanukamania. Every year for over 40 years, our Temple has provided this vital service. All of our members and their immediate families are protected if they should ever need a transfusion.

Dolly and Irv Soloway and the entire Blood Bank Committee are proud of this accomplishment. Many of Temple's newest members joined the drive and contributed blood, as well as donors who have faithfully given every year. The following "Blood Buddies" came to donate blood and the share the "Gift of Life":

Stephanie Bar-Am
Alan Barnett
Peter Barnett
Andy Brafman
Noah Brauner
Sunny Brody
Arnold Budin
Wendy Budin
Lynne Crawford
Ken Englander
Alice Forman
Lauren Friedman
Cheryl Futterman
Richard Giles
Barbara Green
Jon Green
Karen Jack
Robin Kahn
Sue Kaplan
Laura Kessler
Manuel Kursky
Robb Kushner
Laurie Landau
Arlene Lieberman
Stuart Lipkind
Jonathan Loesen

Elaine Lubiner
Pau I MacArthur
Ken Merber
Betty Movitz
Pablo Munoz
Rob Ozer
Mimi Paperman
Alan Paul
Joan Pearlman
Perter Pearlman
Scott Pearlman
Bill Perlman
Susan Pitman
Robert Portnoff
Mel Prager
Rich Press
Paula Radding
Francisco Recio
Tom Rees
Cindee Ringel
George Ringel
Lois Schilling
Sam Schmidt
Sandra Schuman
Marvin Schwinder
Robin Shimmel-Binns

Mark Slade
Joseph Sobelman
Joanne Stern
Barbara Stoller
David Stoller
Jerry Tuttle
Sandy Weener
Cheryl Weinberg
Susan Witkin
Alan Wolf
JB Wollard

We wish to thank the Blood Bank Committee who helped to make this drive such a success:

Dr. Jon Green, Ed Gevirtz, Joe and Mimi Paperman, Arnold Rintzler, Bill Perlman, Michele and Mark Slade, Pauline Pollack, Renee and Dr. Keith Silverman, Elaine Lubiner, Jill and Robb Kushner, Alice and Mel Prager, Steve Kruvant, Karen Englander, Richard Pres, Paul MacArthur, Peggy Barnett, Ellen Barocas, Dr. Joseph Sobelman, Roger Landau, Elizabeth Best and Sunny Seglin.

Tributes

Send congratulations or a message of comfort while supporting Temple. Tributes can be purchased for

\$5 (white) \$10 (blue)
\$18 (silver) \$25 (gold).

A lovely card will be sent to the recipient and your message will be published in the Temple Bulletin. Contributions may be made to any of the funds listed here and a check must accompany your order.

E-Z Pass

Here's an easy, no-hassle way to order your Tributes by phone: Just deposit at least \$50 to your Temple account, specifying it be used for Tribute Easy Pass. Then, whenever you'd like to have a Tribute sent, call Temple and ask for the Tribute line. You will be prompted to leave the necessary information, and your Tribute will be mailed out the next day. You may also email Tributes to tributes@tsti.org or fax your Tribute information to 973-763-3941.

If you prefer, use the form to the left (make as many copies as you wish for future use) and send the form to Temple. Payment must accompany Tributes by mail.

All in the Family

Mazel Tov to

Judy and Larry Kantor and Charlotte and Lawrence Kantor on the birth of a grandson and great grandson, Daniel Lior Levin. Daniel is the son of Beth and Oren Levin.

Nancy and Scott Levy on the birth of a son, Max Louis Levy.

Tribute Order

Tribute to:

Name _____

Address _____

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donated by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

I am pleased to contribute \$ _____ to the Fund indicated below:

- ☐ Temple Fund
- ☐ Iris "Family Matters" Fund
- ☐ Abelson, Echikson, Ehrenkrantz Library Fund
- ☐ Adam Katz Memorial Fund (for programs about bereavement)
- ☐ Norma Benisch Mansion Restoration Fund
- ☐ Maurice Koenigsberg Arts and Music Fund
- ☐ Melville J. Berlow Music Fund
- ☐ Harry Levine B'nai Mitzvah Fund
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- ☐ Josh Littman Audio-Video Fund
- ☐ Discretionary Funds
 - ☐ Rabbi Cohen ☐ Rabbi Miller ☐ Cantor Aronson ☐ Rabbi Goldman
- ☐ Alexander Permison for Adult Education Fund
- ☐ Pomerantz Fund for Adult Jewish Enrichment
- ☐ Prayer Book Fund (\$18 will ensure an inscription)
- ☐ Erna & Alfred Schick Education Scholarship Fund
- ☐ Sisterhood Fund for Reform Jewish Summers
- ☐ Harriet & Jesse Goodwin Arts & Humanities Fund
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- ☐ Gellis Family Fund for Senior Programming
- ☐ Stark Confirmation Class Trip Fund
- ☐ Green Family Pulpit Fund
- ☐ TSTI Access Fund
- ☐ Pearl & Sam Green Preschool Fund
- ☐ Tree of Life Fund
- ☐ David I. Greenstone Fund (for humanities, music and art)
- ☐ Richard Gross Confirmation Class Fund
- ☐ Brotherhood Fund for Youth Activities

(For office use:)

Card Sent by _____ Date _____ Pub. _____

Tributes

Contributions in memory of loved ones and in honor of the simchas in our lives are acts of loving kindness. We are grateful for your generous support of Temple through various Tribute Funds.

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 Margie Feinberg
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 Ann Bass
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Ruthann & Herb Fish
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James Shurtleff, father of Sylvia Cutler
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Sanford Gabin, brother of Nancy Marshall
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In Memoriam

SYBIL BRODY
Mother of Phyllis Kilik
and Robert Brody

SANFORD GABIN
Brother of Nancy Marshall

ANNETTE KLEIN
Mother of Steve Klein

JAMES W. SHURTLEFF
Father of Sylvia Cutler

SAMUEL WOLF
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CDR@jccmetrowest.org**

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TEMPLE**

Call the main
office number,
973-763-4116.

You will hear updates
as soon as decisions are made
to cancel or postpone an
event in case of inclement
weather.



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