Sharey Tefilo-Israel

NOVEMBER, 2006/CHESHVAN, 5767

TSTI presents

a Private Screening of

"An Inconvenient Truth"

with Commentary by Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith Monday, November 6 at 7:30 P.M.

Humanity is sitting on a time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet's climate system into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced- a catastrophe of our own making.

If that sounds like a recipe for serious gloom and doom think again. From director Davis Guggenheim comes the Sundance Film Festival hit, An Inconvenient Truth, which offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's commitment to expose the myths and misconceptions that surround global warming and inspire actions to prevent it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on an all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change.

With 2005, the worst storm season ever experienced in America just behind us, it seems we may be reaching a tipping point – and Gore pulls no punches in explaining the dire situation. Interspersed with the bracing facts and future predictions is the story of Gore's personal journey: from an idealistic college student who first saw a massive environmental crisis looming; to a young Senator facing a harrowing family tragedy that altered his perspective; to the man who almost became President but instead returned to the most impassioned cause of his life – convinced that there is still time to make a difference.

With wit, smarts and hope, An Inconvenient Truth ultimately brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue – rather, it is the biggest moral challenge facing our global civilization. Friday, November 17 Shabbat Scholar 7:30 P.M.



Mark J. Pelavin

Ancient Values, Contemporary Challenges: Making Jewish Decisions in an Unsettled Political Arena

Zulletin

Mark J. Pelavin is the Associate Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), a position he has held since May 1996. He is one of the Jewish community's leading legislative strategists, and, having worked in Washington for over 15 years, one of its senior lobbyists.

Mr. Pelavin plays a leadership role on the RAC's entire agenda, although he is particularly recognized for his expertise on issues concerning the separation of church and state. He is an expert in confronting the religious right, and his observations and writings have been carried in newspapers across the nation (including the New York Times, the Washington Post, and USA Today).

Mr. Pelavin will help us explore the intersection between religious values and public policy choices. What does it mean in today's world to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God?" How do we balance competing concerns, such as protecting privacy and waging an effective war on terrorism? What guidance does our tradition provide on issues such as global warming, human rights, and economic policy?

Please see Page 8 for details of the screening.



Schedule of Services

Friday, November 3

Lech Lecha, Genesis 12-17.27 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:00 P.M. Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 4

Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M. Gross Chapel B'nai Mitzvah of Amanda Caragliano, Courtney Buchalter, and Jamie Mischel 10:15 A.M. B'not Mitzvah of Samantha and

Danielle Heller, 10:30 A.M.

Friday, November 10

Vayera, Genesis 18.22-24 Shabbat Service, 6:00 P.M. Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, November 11

Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M. Gross Chapel B'nai Mitzvah of Carly Krasnoff, Joseph Vinegrad, and Zachary Kessler, 10:15 A.M. Bat Mitzvah of Sandra Stein, 10:30 A.M.

Friday, November 17

Chaye Sara, Genesis 23-25.18 Shabbat Service and Guest Scholar, 7:30 P.M. Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, November 18

Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M., Gross Chapel B'nai Mitzvah of Montana Geltzeiler, Tyler Bank and Josh Ringel, 10:15 A.M. Bar Mitzvah of William Tutino, 10:30 A.M.

Friday, November 24

Toldot, Genesis 25.19-28.9 Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M. Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, November 25

Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M. Gross Chapel CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

4:31 P.M.

4:23 P.M.

4:17 P.M.

4.13 PM

NOVEMBER 3 NOVEMBER 10 NOVEMBER 17 NOVEMBER 24



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 Barbara Stoller, President Jack Fersko, VP Joel Scharf, VP Richard Flaum, VP Hope Pomerantz, VP Monique de la Cour, VP Gail Barry, Treasurer Judy Epstein, Financial Secretary Robert Ozer, Financial Secretary Debbie Bernstein, Corr. Secretary Audrey Weiss, Recording Secretary **Executive Director** Leslie Sporn **School Directors** Elizabeth Best, R.J.E. Religious School Carol Paster, Preschool **Program Director** Tracy Horwitz, LSW Bulletin Sunny Seglin

Thank you to the following folks for fitting Sukkah construction into their busy schedule.

Rich Flaum Arnie Budin Ariel Bayer Arthur Haas Jesse Bayer Ray Green



Jerry Kaufman, Mel Praeger Max Weisenfeld, Marcia Weinstein Neil Fabricant -the Master Builder and Rob Ozer and Tony Robinson, who provided their tools, even though they had schedule/job conflicts.

Thanks to their teamwork, the Sukkah was built in two hours before darkness and rain arrived!!

> Jesse Bayer Worship & Ritual Chair



In This Season of Harvest, Let us Celebrate our Bounty With Those in Need.



Join our Clothing Drive for the New Jersey FoodBankChildren's Closet.

Donations of New (or very gently used) COATS, HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES in sizes infant - 14 years.

Collection bins available through Sunday, November 19th – the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Sponsored by the TSTI Interfaith Outreach Committee

Page 3



From the Rabbi's Study

With the celebration of Simchat Torah, we finished the cycle of reading the Torah and began it once again with the first words of Bereshit in Genesis. It is in that story that we are told that, according to our ancestors, humanity is the apex of God's creative process. Thus, we find in the story God saving to Adam and Eve,"Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it, rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky and all living things that creep on earth." (Genesis chapter 1:28) We have certainly succeeded with regard to the former command for there are evermore people living on this planet. In fact, according to researchers, at some time in the past few weeks the population of the United States exceeded 300 million residents for the first time. Too often, however, we have completely failed with regard to the latter command, for rather than mastering the world and becoming its caretaker, we have viewed this biblical decree as a license to abuse our environment.

The rabbis of the Midrash taught that shortly after God had created Adam, the two walked through the garden together."See how beautiful all my creations are," said God, "all has been created for your sake. So reflect on this, and take care not to foul or destroy my world. For if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you. And what is worse, you will bring death even to righteous people in the future." (A midrash on the book of Ecclesiastes) The rabbi who wrote that ancient story wanted us to understand that some intrusions into the natural world have irreversible effects. Two thousand years later we are finally coming to recognize that what had been hypothesized is likely becoming a reality. Global warming is taking place at a frightening pace and some scientists suggest that we have only a decade before its impact becomes irreversible. Changes need to be made on a global level, on a national level and even on a personal level if we are to change this trend. It is to that end of that our Green Team, chaired by **Elliot Sommer**, has been working during the past few years to help educate us with regard to the issue and to offer some insights into what we can do in response.

It is for this reason that I am delighted to invite you to come together as a Temple family for a screening of the recent and compelling movie "An Inconvenient Truth" on Monday, November 6, at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith will be with us to facilitate a discussion after viewing the film. Rev. Harper is an Episcopal priest, an award-winning writer and a nationally recognized speaker on the environment.

Our ancestors understood that respect for our planet is a religious obligation. I look forward to seeing you on November 6.

Rabbi Daniel Cohen

You've joined our Temple Family..... now it's time to get to know each other!

The Membership Committee invites you to a series of informal talks with our clergy and lay leaders to introduce you to Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel and its connections to the Jewish Community. Join us on Wednesday night November 29 at 7.30 p.m. in Rabbi Cohen's study for a lively discussion with Rabbi Cohen on "Theology in a Post Modern World: What is Reform Judaism About?" The program will end at 9.00 pm. Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling Monique de la Cour-Lurie at 973-275-1420 or by e-mail at monique lurie@yahoo.com. We look forward to meeting our newest members!



Conversations...

JEFF BIRNBAUM

Sunday, November 12 7:30 PM

Jeff Birnbaum, an award-winning author, television commentator and a columnist for the *Washington Post*, brings political savvy to the *Conversations* ... post-2006 election program as he presents *Where We Go From Here: An Analysis of the* **2006 Election**. Birnbaum, with the *Post* since 2004, has also been Washington bureau chief for *Fortune* magazine, a senior political correspondent for *TIME* magazine, and a staff writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, including a stint as the *Journal*'s White House correspondent. Currently a political analyst for Fox News Channel and a regular panelist on the PBS program *Washington Week*, Birnbaum is also a commentator for National Public Radio's *Marketplace* and a weekly commentator on WBZ in Boston.

Conversations...

The 2006-07 season will include movies, lectures and the kinds of *Conversations* ... you've come to expect. A more detailed schedule will be mailed to all TSTI households, and upcoming dates will be announced in the monthly *Bulletin* and at www.tsti.org.For individual ticket prices, contact the TSTI office, 973-763-7163.

BENEFACTOR SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$200 per person or \$300 per family. Benefactors are entitled to premier seating at all events, post-lecture receptions and a special listing in our *Conversations…* program books.

PATRON SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$75 per person. Patrons receive admission to all *Conversations* ... presentations and a mention in each program book.



Include me as a **Benefactor** for \$200 for the 2006-2007 *Conversations* ... series number of Benefactor subscriptions

Include me as a Family Benefactor for \$300 for the 2006-2007 Conversations ... series
Include me as a Patron for \$75 for the 2006-2007 Conversations... series
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	c/o Pauline Pollack and Hanie Warshaw		

432 Scotland Road, South Orange, NJ 07079 QUESTIONS: contact Linda Kirsch at **lindabk@optonline.net**





The President's Point of View

In an effort to better communicate some of the many things happening "behind the scenes" at our Temple, I will use this space to give some updates as we

go through the year.

The TSTI Board of Trustees meets once a month. We begin with a d'var torah taught by Rabbi Cohen and move on to the routine and special matters at hand. At the October meeting:

◆The Board approved a new personnel manual drafted by a committee including experienced attorneys. Revisions were necessary for TSTI to be in compliance with applicable law.





Arianna Huffington, dynamic speaker and thought provoking author, makes a point at the podium as the 2006-07 season began on Sunday, October 15.

Want to see our new property?

Open House

128 Montrose Ave., South Orange, NJ Sunday, November 19, 2006 9-10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. - 12: 30 p.m. • The Chai Raffle was drawn at the meeting. The lucky winners are **Randi** and **Glenn Butcher**. Thank you to all who participated, giving TSTI a head start for our ways and means budget line.

•We are beginning to address our renovation plans in light of our purchase of the Montrose Avenue property. Committees will be formed as necessary and updates will be forthcoming.

The celebration of the High Holy Days was very special. I thank the many of you who volunteered to help in the preparation, to usher and to assist with the children's programming. I have heard that some members did not receive the High Holy Day Appeal mailing, including the pledge card. You may call the Temple office to receive the pledge materials or send your donation directly to TSTI. I thank you all for your generous participation in this year's appeal.

Barbara Stoller

Union for Reform Judaism News Updates:

Getting Ready for a Chanukah of Justice

Thinking ahead, why not make this year the year you join families around the county in fighting poverty by devoting the sixth night to *Ner Shel Tzedah*. On this night – which falls on December 20th this year —donate the value of your gifts, or the gifts themselves, to an organization that assists the poor. To learn more about this and other ideas for Chanukah, go to <u>www.rac.org/</u> <u>poverty</u> or <u>www.rac.org/chanukah</u>.

Calling All Bike Riders: Join the 4th Annaul Riding4Reform Israel Ride

Ride from sea to sea in Israel this March 18-22 by joining the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism's 4th annual Ride4Reform fundraising bike tour. The Three Seas Ride will encompass the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean, and all proceeds will be used to strengthen the IMPJ's youth programming throughout Israel. For more information please visit <u>www.riding4reform.org</u> or email riding4reform@impj.org.il with any questions.

Page 6

OUTREACH

The Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel (TSTI) Interfaith Outreach Committee strives to meet the needs of interfaith couples and families, Jews-by-choice and non-Jews who wish to learn about, and participate more fully in, Jewish life. Our goal is to provide a warm and comfortable environment in which to connect, or re-connect, with Judaism.

A hearty thank you to all who joined us for our Sukkot Dinner and Decorating event on October 5th. With the beautiful fall chill in the air and the warmth of the community, we all had a wonderful time!

Also, I hope that those of you who participated in the Sharing Shabbat: A Program for Jewish children and their non-Jewish family on October 22nd, were able to continue to share at home all we did that afternoon.

Our exciting UPCOMING programming: SHABBAT FOR EVERYONE:

A Shabbat Dinner & Learner's Service

Join our clergy, cantor and community for an engaging evening where we can all learn more about Shabbat on Friday, December 1. Dinner will begin at 5:30 pm in the Ballroom and the service will begin at 7:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary. This event is open to our entire community. Bring your family, your friends, your appetite and your questions! Please email <u>jrltsti@comcast.net</u> or phone 973-762-6636 to reserve your spot for this wonderful event!

Interfaith Couples Discussion Group

On Tuesday, January 9, we will begin this muchanticipated program. Class size is limited and will run for 6 weeks on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm. Babysitting will be available with prior reservations. The cost of the program is \$18 per couple to cover babysitting, supplies and refreshments. Please email <u>jrltsti@comcast.net</u> or phone 973-762-6636 if you have questions or would like to reserve your spot in this class.

Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving from all of us on the Interfaith Outreach Committee

Jennifer Larson Outreach Chair

Have You Responded?

If you didn't receive your High Holy Days Appeal request in the mail, please call the Temple office, 973-763-4116. We will be glad to send you another. Our goal is 100% participation. We need your help!

Renaisssance Group

Our year is well on its way. We have now spent a beautiful day in the "country" at the Doris Duke estate. It was a wondrous day. We viewed the way the really wealthy of another era lived. Also, the estate and the gardens were so very elegant. Our thanks to **Frankie Weiss** and **Gerry Gould** for this special experience.

On November 14 we will have the "city experience" when we visit the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. This will be an opportunity to see how people lived when they immigrated to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's. After that, we will go uptown to the Morgan Museum and Library. Lunch will be available at the museum or at a restaurant near the museum. **Ruth Tenner** and **Marcia Weinstein** arranged this interesting day for us. You will receive details in the mail about the time the bus will leave the Temple parking lot, anticipated time of return as well as other information. This promises to be a worthwhile day, so return your reservation and check promptly after you received the letter.

Hopefully you have marked your calendar for our Chanukah celebration on December 14[.] We will have a sumptuous dinner and great entertainment. Fred Miller who entertains with song, story and piano will be back with us by by popular demand. There will be more about this in our next column, but plan to join us.

Horence Seglin



October Bar Mitzvah

William Cohen became a Bar Mitzvah on October 21. He is the son of Amy and Gregg Cohen and the brother of Jessica.

Grandparents Gail and Charles Barison, Marilyn Miller and Donna and David Cohen, were happy to share the occasion. Billy enjoys baseball, golf and skiing, and his favorite subject at Millburn Middle School is social studies. For his "Mitzvah Project," he is participating in trail clean-up and maintenance in Essex and Morris county parks. Billy sees becoming a Bar Mitzvah as reaching a major milestone in his life.

Apologies to the Cohen family for the omission of Billy's Bar Mitzvah in the October Bulletin.



Action-Packed Mitzvot

Sharing Social Action—It's Time to Get Inspired!

Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others, cannot keep it from themselves. James M. Barrie, author of Peter Pan

MITZVAH HEROES CONFERENCE

On Sunday, November 19, you can meet some of the most exciting, enthusiastic people on the planet. They will describe their activities at a Mitzvah Heroes Conference, sponsored by the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, at Temple Anshe Emeth in New Brunswick. Meet the Shoe Lady of Denver! Learn about an organization that takes leftover food from rock performers and donates it to shelters. Hear about a group of middle schoolers who are working to end child slavery in other countries.

I have been to two Mitzvah Heroes Conferences—one in Maryland and one in Rhode Island—and it never gets old. Would you like to become re-motivated to do the work of *tikkun olam*? Contact Anshe Emeth members Debbie Schlossberg (732-422-1463) or Debbie Budd-Levine (732-297-7440) for registration information. I look forward to seeing you there!

TELL ME A STORY...

At TSTI, our approach to social action is to plant seeds by providing information and hoping that you will be moved to take action. The "success" of this kind of approach is impossible to quantify, so instead we measure the impact of our efforts by keeping our eyes and ears open. Sometimes people take action as a result of something they've read about in the bulletin, on the Mitzvah email list, in the Mitzvah directory, or in a URJ publication. Other times, a condition in the outside world has been the catalyst. Frankly, it doesn't really matter how it happens.

Many times I hear about an individual who has taken action to make the world a better place—on their own, quietly and without fanfare. I like to share their stories so that you may be inspired, as I am.

HYBRID CARS

Here's one from Rick Staenberg:

As we were riding our bikes one day, Ed Schwarz told me about the Toyota Prius, which he had just ordered. He described a high-tech vehicle with a video screen in the dashboard that provided information about what was happening under the hood. He also said that the car had both a traditional gasoline engine and an electric motor. The car produced remarkable fuel economy and generated remarkably little pollution. Since I was just about due for a new car, I ordered one. This car was magical—and surprisingly comfortable for 5 adults. It handled just like a car, but the engine shut itself down when it wasn't required. The first time I stopped at a red light, and the engine shut down, I thought the car had stalled!

I loved getting an average fuel economy of about 50 miles per gallon. I loved the fact that my car generated virtually no pollution. When it was time for me to get my next car, I got another Prius, and passed my gently used Prius to our daughter Rachel, who lives in Chicago. It's less expensive for her to commute to work by car than to take the El.

By now, I see at least 6 hybrid cars in the temple parking lot and I know that 3 of them are there due to my infectious enthusiasm. I believe that good ideas spread like wildfire, and I expect we'll see a lot more hybrid cars in our lot within the near future.

SAVE DARFUR RALLY AND UPDATE

Another congregant who saw a problem and has been determined to help make a difference is Carla Boden. Carla, Judy Bernstein, Barbara Laub, Barbara Robinton, and Susan Witkin have formed a committee that is working to helping the people of Darfur. Here are Carla's words about the rally held on September 17..

"Never Again" has become "Once Again" in Darfur, Sudan. On Sunday, September 17, members of TSTI and the Reform delegation joined with more than 30,000 others at the SAVE DARFUR NOW: Voices to Stop Genocide rally and concert in Central Park. The event took place on Global Day for Darfur, which coincided with the 61st opening of the UN General Assembly. In total, 57 events in 41 countries took place worldwide, each one demanding that governments and the UN Security Council put pressure on the Sudanese government to accept the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces immediately.

We stood in Central Park amid a diverse crowd of faithbased humanitarian and human rights organizations, activists, students and caring individuals. We listened to a group of impassioned speakers that included former US Secretary of State Madelaine K. Albright, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA Larry Cox, Senior Advisor of International Crisis Group John Prendergast, actress Mira Sorvino, US



(con't from pg. 7)

Olympic gold medalist Joey Cheek and Darfurian civilians. We also heard from Ethan Rafal, a journalist who had been jailed while visiting Darfur and Eastern Chad. He implored the world to take action as he stated, "As long as we are human, as long as there are human rights violations in Darfur, we must act."

Our voices must have been heard. On September 19, 2006, Andrew Natsios was appointed as Presidential Special Envoy to Khartoum. Now all of the rhetoric must be put into action. Let's continue to make our voices heard and strive to stop the genocide now. Please call TSTI members Judy Bernstein (201) 602-5354 or Carla Boden (973) 376-2445 if you wish to become part of a group that is committed to helping the people of Darfur. To learn more about the situation and how you can advocate for the Darfuri citizens log onto:<u>www.savedarfur.org,www.rac.org</u>

Thanks, Rick and Carla. If you have a Mitzvah story you'd like to share, please email it to me at <u>jillmkushner@gmail.com</u> (PLEASE NOTE: NEW EMAIL AD-DRESS) so I can spread the word (anonymously, if you prefer) and tell other people about an important way to help repair the world.

THE MITZVAH EMAIL LIST

If you sign up for the Mitzvah email list, you are NOT making any kind of commitment. It just means that I will send you periodic emails to let you know about Mitzvah opportunities at TSTI or in the community. That's all...then, if you want to take action, you do so. Just like the commercial says, "There's no obligation at any time" (but in this case, it's actually true!).

SOUP KITCHEN DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Soup kitchen dates this month are Nov.5 and Nov.19. We welcome individuals and families (children over age 7). Contact Pam Rayvid at <u>PRAYVID@aol.com</u> or at 973-912-8929; contact Jane Kagan at <u>jane@campbrynmawr.com</u> or at 973-376-4157.

Jill Kushner

Social Action Chair jillmkushner@gmail.com (Please note new email address)

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

will be shown on Monday, November 6 at 7:30 P.M. in the Bet Tefillah. Please respond to Sunny Seglin at sseglin@tsti.org.

Information on page 1 from www.participantproductions.com

Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Underway in November

For the seventh year in a row, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel will serve as the South Orange drop-off site for the annual Thanksgiving Turkey and Food Drive of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. This year's Drive will be held on Saturday, November 18, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The TSTI site makes it easy for our members to help the FoodBank provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. This year our turkey site will again be equipped to collect not only frozen turkeys but any and all non-perishable foods that you may wish to donate. Canned and packaged goods (including such Thanksgiving staples as canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and gravy) will be gratefully accepted.

There are several easy ways to help this year:

• Bring a frozen turkey to TSTI's site on Saturday, November 18 between 9 am and 2 pm.

• For added convenience, turkeys may also be brought to TSTI's Friday evening services on November 17. Place your frozen (never thawed) turkey in the freezer in the main kitchen (look for the turkey sign on the freezer).

• Financial donations can instead be made to enable the FoodBank to purchase turkeys for the Drive at wholesale prices. Checks can be dropped off at our site on November 18, or sent to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, 31 Evans Terminal Road, Hillside, NJ 07205. Please mark "Turkey Drive" on the outside of the envelope.

• Donate from your computer! A "virtual turkey drive" is available online at <u>www.njfoodbank.org</u>. You can purchase a turkey and even dinner fixings by credit card!

Whichever way you donate a turkey, your donation will help make Thanksgiving a joyful time for those for whom fighting hunger is an ongoing struggle.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the TSTI drive, or for more information, contact **Lisa Goldberg Ozer** at 973-762-2887 or ozerfam@verizon.net.

For more information on the work of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, including volunteer opportunities, call 908-355-3663 or visit <u>www.njfoodbank.org</u>.





Linda and Rudy Slucker Religious School



According to Robert D. Putnam, a Harvard University public policy professor, we Americans are more socially disconnected from one another than at any time since the start of the 20th century. Professor Putnam, the author of **Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community** argues that during the past 30 years, Americans in all sectors of society have become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors and social and political institutions. He says "Most of us watch 'Friends' instead of having them."

He believes that the extent of this disconnection is indicated through "several trends in American society such as declining church attendance and falling membership in parent-teacher associations, labor unions, the Boy Scouts, and civic groups. Americans entertain friends at home, visit with friends and have dinner with their families far less often than they did a generation ago."

Putnam and other researchers have concluded that there are many possible reasons for these trends; increased amount of time spent in cars; the fact that families no longer live in close proximity to each other; or the use of computers and whether or not they increase communication with family and friends living at great distances or divide people based on the hours spent on the computer.

I am sure that we can speculate on probable causes for this trend; however, what I do know is that we all feel it. And I do believe that the answers lie with communities and not necessarily through public policy.

We already have an amazing vehicle as a solution to this problem: Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel. Our community provides so many opportunities to reach out and connect. We have the ability to create different access points for all of our community members to enter into the synagogue, literally and figuratively. It is a partnership, however, and all of us as community members must take a step toward the community whether it be through the temple, the religious school or the preschool. There are places for everyone in this unique family. As Rabbi Cohen said in a High Holy Day sermon, take one step and we'll come the rest of the way.

Religious School can provide many opportunities for involvement. Family education, school trips, service on the school board, parent participation as class parents, or facilitators at programs and model seders and more provide these chances to connect to our community. The pluses are endless.

Finally, several studies have shown that disconnection from community dramatically affects our health. What better a reason! You'll feel better when you get involved.

> Elizabeth Best, RJE Religious School Director

Upcoming events in November:

Sunday, November 5 7th Grade trip to the Jewish Heritage Museum in New York City

Sunday, November 5 4th Grade Parent Meeting

Sunday, November 5 Introduction of the Israel Special Project to the students of the 3rd Grade

Tuesday, November 7& 8 Observance of Kristallnacht for Sharey Tikvah and Sharey Ateed

Tuesday, November 14 11th Grade College Program

Sunday, November 19 6th Grade Parent Meeting



Mazel Tov To Our B'nai Mitzvah



Amanda Marie Caragliano will be called to the Torah on Saturday, November 4. She is the daughter of **Melissa Caragliano** and **Anthony Caragliano**. Sharing in her day are grandparents, Evelyn and Howard Storch and brother, Alex. Amanda attends Roosevelt Middle School where she enjoys math and finds extra time for skateboarding and playing the violin. Amanda bakes brownies for the homeless at the Lighthouse Shelter in Newark for her "Mitzvah Project." "Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am carrying on the Jewish traditions of my family," says Amanda.



Courtney Caryn Buchalter, daughter of **Sindee** and **David Buchalter**, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 4. Celebrating with her are her sister, Lauren, and grandparents, Madeleine and Allan Klippel and Barbara and Irwin Buchalter. Courtney enjoys English and social studies at Millburn Middle School. In her free time she likes to play basketball and sing. She collected and sorted used eyeglasses for "Eyes for the Needy" for her "Mitzvah Project." "As I enter the Jewish community as an adult, I will honor my responsibility to help others in need," says Courtney.



Jamie Victor Mischel, son of **Lynne Crawford** and **Richard Mischel**, looks forward to his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 4. Joining him are his brother A.J., and grandmother, Mary Crawford. Jamie attends South Orange Middle School where his favorite subject is math. He also enjoys participating in soccer and basketball. For his "Mitzvah Project" Jamie plans to work on behalf of animal protection.

"My Bar Mitzvah means becoming an adult member of the Jewish community, taking more responsibility, learning more about the practices and traditions, and doing mitzvot" says Jamie.



Danielle Beth Heller, daughter of **Ellen Alboum** and **Jeffrey Heller**, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 4. Celebrating with her are her brother, Ben, twin sister, Sami and grandparents, Harriet Alboum and Esther and Morris Heller. Dani enjoys language arts at Roosevelt Middle School and is an avid reader. For her "Mitzvah Project," she teamed with her sister in Run for Rachel and were the highest fundraisers in their category.

"Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am becoming more responsible for my actions. I want to help other people, too," says Dani.



Samantha Faith Heller, daughter of Ellen Alboum and Jeffrey Heller, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 4. Celebrating with her are her brother, Ben, twin sister, Dani and grandparents, Harriet Alboum and Esther and Morris Heller. Sami enjoys math at Roosevelt Middle School and playing soccer for the West Orange Storm. For her "Mitzvah Project," she teamed with her sister in Run for Rachel and were the highest fundraisers in their category. "Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is another stage in my life. I am growing up and becoming more mature and responsible," says Sami.



Sandra Beth Stein looks forward to becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 11. Her parents, **Shari** and **Scott Stein**, brother Philip, and grandfather, Irving Stein will celebrate the day with her. Sandra attends Millburn Middle School. She likes being with friends, dancing, and playing field hockey and basketball. Her "Mitzvah Project" has to do with lung cancer, because it has affected her family.

"From here on, I will be given more responsibilities and I will be respected more throughout the Jewish community," says Sandra.



Mazel Tov To Our B'nai Mitzvah



Carly Allyn Krasnoff, daughter of **Wendy** and **John Krasnoff**, will be called to the Torah on Saturday, November 11 as her grandfather, Benjamin Jacobson, Jr. and step-grandmother Maureen Jacobson, share the day with her. Math and science are Carly's favorite subjects at Millburn Middle School, while tennis, dance, peer leadership and volunteering take up her spare time. For her "Mitzvah Project," Carly volunteers at a nursing home, where she often brings her dog to cheer the patients.

"I am ready to accept more responsibilities, continue my Jewish studies and volunteer to help others in need as I become a Bat Mitzvah," says Carly.



Joseph Aaron Vinegrad, son of **Betsy** and **Alan Vinegrad**, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 11. His brother, Daniel, and grandparents Mildred Vinegrad and Elaine and Peter Schwarz look forward to celebrating with him. An 8th grader at Millburn Middle School, Joey's interests include math, science, baseball and tennis. For his "Mitzvah Project" Joey participates in the "Friendship Circle."

Joey says, "My Bar Mitzvah means that I need to take on adult responsibilities and set a good example for people younger than me."



Joshua Tyler Ringel, son of **Cindee** and **George Ringel** and brother of Alyssa and Samantha, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 18. Grandparents Sandy Kuchin, Bruce Socolow, Marcy Feldheim, and Bev and Ed Ringel look forward to sharing in the family's simcha. Joshua is a student at Roosevelt Middle School and enjoys math, basketball and soccer. For his "Mitzvah Project," he volunteers in the Soccer Circle part of the Friendship Circle, enabling children with disabilities to enjoy the game.

About this special day, Joshua says, "Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means becoming an adult in the Jewish community and accepting the responsibilities that go along with that."



Montana Sloane Geltzeiler looks forward to becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 18. Celebrating with her are her parents, **Sayre** and **Barry Geltzeiler**, her sister, Hunter, and grandparents Cecil and Bernie Glassman, Barbara and Burt Geltzeiler, and Maia and Norman Feigenbaum. Montana attends Liberty Middle School and enjoys art, acting, singing and dancing. For her "Mitzvah Project" she will be volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, helping to build a house in the Poconos. "This is the first step in becoming an adult in the Jewish community, and I am very excited. I am looking forward to the challenges I will face in the process," says Montana.



William Charles Tutino, son of Jane Witkin and Charles Tutino, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 18. His sister, Emily, and grandparents Norma and Nathan Witkin will be with him on this special occasion. Will attends Maplewood Middle School where he enjoys language arts, science and art. He also loves sailing, swimming and drawing. He volunteers throughout the year at the food pantry at a local church for his "Mitzvah Project."

"As a Bar Mitzvah, I now feel ready to continue my family's tradition of community service. In addition, I look forward to the hard work, difficult choices and greater freedom involved in becoming an adult," says Will.



Tyler David Bank, son of **Lisa** and **Todd Bank**, looks forward to sharing his Bar Mitzvah day with his siblings, Emily and Jake, and grandparents, Frances Bank and Shirley Landy. A student at Gill St. Bernard School, he loves math and science and playing all sports. Tyler has been involved with the Make a Wish Foundation since he was a fourth grader, and has been raising money for this cause as his "Mitzvah Project."

Tyler says, "Now I must take greater responsibility in my home and in the Jewish community. I am on my way to becoming a mature adult and meeting the challenges that it brings."





The Iris Family

After a bad rainstorm my husband noticed a hole in the roof of our garage. Not a big hole, but one that needed to be dealt with nonetheless. Rather than call a contractor chosen from a phonebook, I thought I'd give some afterwork business to the foreman, Jason, at Habitat for Humanity. He came to my house to assess the damage and give me a list of supplies that needed to be purchased. It seems that half the roof had rotted and the many soft spots would require ripping off the old shingles and existing wood. What started out as a patch and a one hour job became a new roof and a weekend event. What started out as a friend giving work to someone who could use it, became another story completely.

I showed up to build at Habitat the next morning and was greeted by one of the regulars with, "Hey, I hear we're doing Pennsylvania barn-raising." Unbeknownst to me, Jason had asked many of the volunteers and paid staff to come rebuild my roof with him and to my surprise they were very excited to join in. These were not people who knew me well or owed me anything. They were just kind, giving souls who saw a need and wanted to fill it.

A week later, the Saturday before Yom Kippur, Jason and Carlos, a partner family owner, arrived to remove shingles and get the roof prepped for the Sunday morning crew. Arrival time was set to be 8:00 a.m. Tired and cranky (I was at a wedding the night before) I awoke to a torrential downpour.Now, I'm usually someone you can count on if I have committed to a task or an event, but I don't know that I would have shown up to a virtual stranger's house to climb onto her garage roof in the rain with nothing more than the prospect of a free lunch as my reward. I knew I could count on Jason, but I was utterly shocked when my'crew' arrived. We worked long hours trying to finish before sundown. Jason was motivated by his desire to keep us safe and I was motivated by the desire to get to the late Kol Nidre service. As it turned out, we were three feet shy of finishing when Jason had to literally force us off the roof. Now I had a dilemma. My choice was either to rush my team out the door so my family could gulp down a quick meal before

dressing for services or ask them to join in. Needless to say, I extended the invitation to stay for dinner.

At dinner time, I looked around the table, what would normally have been my pre-fast meal with my relatives, and was struck not so much by our differences, and believe me, there were many, but rather by what we had in common. These wet, tired, bruised and bedraggled people may not have been my blood relatives, but it was my family just the same. We were tall and short, fat and thin, old and young. We were male and we were female. We were Jewish, Polish and Roman Catholic. We were white and we were of color. We were straight and we were gay. We were married and we were single. We were paid staff and volunteers. We were homeowners and we were partner families. But we all work together, weekly, on the common goal of building a better world - one house at a time. This was a lesson in community building in the best sense of the definition.

I know I've made an attempt here to make a point but I'm struggling with how to relate this article to children in the preschool, as I usually do. Maybe this time I have to be content with remembering a phrase that is used often by early childhood educators: "process, not product," meaning that it's not the end product that is important but rather the process by which children learn about their world. Maybe it's about......

Excuse me but I won't be able to finish my final thoughts right now; I leave you to draw your own conclusions. I heard noises outside my back door and upon looking out my kitchen window I see Jason has snuck into my driveway to remove the many bags of garbage we had accumulated during demolition and repair.

Perhaps this was just a good story that needs to be written for its own sake.

Carol Paster Preschool Director

Join us for another great Women's Connection event......

A private guided tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, a living memorial to those who perished during the Holocaust, in New York City. This will be an incredible day of learning as the Museum helps to provide a better understanding of what it meant to be Jewish in the 20th century. The mission of the Museum of Jewish Heritage is to educate people about the broad tapestry of Jewish life over the past century – before, during and after the Holocaust.

Date: Wednesday, November 15

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Cost: \$36 per person including lunch and transportation Transportation: A bus will be leaving from and returning to the TSTI parking lot. RSVP: Debbie Taffet at DTaffet@comcast.net

We were thrilled with the strong interest in our two healthy Jewish cooking classes that took place in October. Both the morning and evening sessions were filled and the TSTI women who participated learned to make a few delicious and healthy recipes for their families and also shared a lot of laughs experimenting in the kitchen. A special thank you to Pam Riesenberg for orchestrating and leading such a great event.

We hope that those of you who are not yet members of the Women's Connection will consider joining. To join the TSTI Women's Connection: Please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address along with a check for \$36 (made out to TSTI Women's Connection) to: Andrea Baum, 60 Woodcrest Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078

SharevTefi

Women's Connection Gift Shop

Come see our new, extensive line of hand-made Judaica for the home. We have an outstanding selection of menorahs ... and don't forget to pick up your candles ... traditional, hand rolled beeswax, or luscious multi-colors. Look for us at Chanukamaniah next month, with plenty of toys, games and more!

Andrea Baum and Helene Sorin The Women's Connection Co-Chairs

Calendar of Events 2006-2007

TOUR of the MUSEUM of JEWISH HERITAGE (a living memorial to the Holocaust) in Battery Park City, New York, Wednesday, November 15th, 9am -3pm, RSVP to Debbie Taffet at <u>DTaffet@comcast.net</u>. We will provide more information as the date approaches.

ISRAELI DANCING at TSTI, Thursday, January 18th, 7-9 pm, RSVP to Arlene Gordon at <u>JECASAGO@aol.com</u>.

SHABBAT B'BAYIT (Shabbat in the Home), Friday, February 9th, 6-10 pm. More information to follow.

The WOMEN'S SEDER at TSTI, Thursday, March 22, 6-9 pm. More information to follow.

BOOK DISCUSSION (*Sotah* by Naomi Ragen) and DESSERT with RABBI COHEN, Wednesday, May 9th, 7-9pm, RSVP to Larkin Cohan at <u>CohanFamily@comcast.net</u>.

In addition, we wanted you to know that we view the Women's Connection to be a platform for many other opportunities and events of interest to women at TSTI. If you have a particular passion or would like to lead a group or activity, just let us know and we will pass the word so that others can join you in your endeavor.

Page 13



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.

TEMPLE FUND

IN MEMORY OF Uncle of Ray Kaufman Toby & Rick Staenberg Dr. & Mrs. Richard Stern Pauline Camras Bette Jane Stern Brenda Stern Brother of Gail Klebanoff Annette Berger Husband of Renee Weinberg Annette Berger Stanley Wald Helen & Frank Davis

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IN HONOR OF Rabbi Cohen, for a memorable Shabbat

Pauline Pollack Matty & Dan Goldberg Bettye & Ramon Green Mimi Braun Eileen Roth Helene Sorin's hospitality Pauline Pollack

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Page 16

Name

Phone

Appointment time:



Blood Bank at TSTI Sunday, December 10, 2006 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Blood Bank Chairpersons, Irv and Dolly Soloway,

request your help in making this year's drive a smashing success. Please fill out the form to the left and mail to Temple in an envelope marked "Blood Bank" (and be sure to mark your calendar at home with the time and date of your pledge). Look for us in the Multi-Purpose Room!

(Please choose a time between 9 A.M. and 2 P.M. at 15 minute intervals)

STISY's Annual Midnight Run Saturday, November 18, 2006 Clothing Needed:

Shirts, Sweaters, Pants, Jackets (Large or Extra-Large Men's Clothing Preferred) New Underwear and socks Trial Size Toiletry Items Hats and Gloves

ITEMS WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH NOVEMBER 17 Bins are located at the Religious School entrance. For information please call







Shabbat Milk and Cookies

(for children pre-K to 2nd grade and their parents/grandparents

Friday, November 17, 2006 6:15–7:30 P.M. Featuring Vickie Kalmus Pianist and music teacher

Create Quality Time with your Family Celebrate Shabbat through music, songs, crafts and prayer Kids are encouraged to come in pj's Remember your blanket to sit on And end the evening with a milk and cookie treat!

There is no fee, but please let us know if you plan to attend.

To register, email thorwitz@tsti.org or call 973-763-4116

Shabbat Milk and Cookies is one of the many opportunities provided through the Iris "Family Matters" Program of Temple Sharey Tefilo–Israel

Page 17











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