
Temple
Sharey Tefilo-Israel

APRIL, 2007/NISAN-IYAR, 5767

Bulletin

Conversations...

BRIGITTE GABRIEL

Sunday, April 29 7:30 PM

Betrayed by My Country,
Rescued by My Enemy Israel



When her mother was seriously wounded in 1982 during the Lebanese civil war, Israel was the only place to go for medical attention – a trip that for her mother became a life-saving experience, and for Brigitte Gabriel, a life-changing one. “So many times in history in the last 100 years, citizens have stood by and done nothing, allowing evil to prevail. As America stood up against and defeated Communism, now it is time to stand up against the terror of religious bigotry and intolerance,” Gabriel has said.

Brigitte Gabriel is a native Arab and professional journalist. She will offer a firsthand account of her personal experiences in the opening salvos of Islamic Jihad toward the Western world. One of the foremost speakers on terrorism and Islam in America, Gabriel founded American Congress for Truth (ACT), a Virginia-based nonprofit organization dedicated to inform, inspire and motivate Americans to take action against terrorism and the threat posed to the West by radical Islamic fundamentalists.

Post-event dessert for Benefactors and Patrons to follow Ms. Gabriel's program.



Schedule of Services

Tuesday, April 3

Passover Service, 10:30 A.M.
Gross Chapel

Friday, April 6

Chol Hamoed, Exodus 33:12-34:26
Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:00 P.M.
Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M.
Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, April 7

Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M. Gross Chapel

Monday, April 9

Yizkor Service and Lunch of
Remembrance, 10:30 A.M. Gross Chapel

Friday, April 13

Shemini, Leviticus, 9-11
Shabbat Service, 6:00 P.M.
Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, April 14

Tot Shabbat, 9:00 A.M.
Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M. Gross Chapel
B'nai Mitzvah of Jeremy Gardner and
Jenna Rimland, 10:15 A.M.

Sunday, April 15

Community Holocaust Memorial Service,
6:30 P.M. St. Joseph's Church, 767 Prospect
St., Maplewood

Friday, April 20

Tazria/Metzora, Leviticus 12-15
Shabbat Service and celebration of Yom
Haatzmaut, Israeli Independence Day,
7:30 P.M. Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, April 21

Shabbat Storytime, 9:00 A.M.
Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M., Gross Chapel
B'nai Mitzvah of Jessica Pitman,
Jared Wishnow and Evan Wolf, 10:15 A.M.
Bat Mitzvah of Julia Levenberg, 10:30 A.M.

Friday, April 27

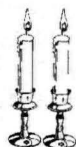
Acharei Mot/Kedoshim, Leviticus 16-20
Noisy Service, 6:30 P.M.
Shabbat Service, 7:30 P.M.
Ruth Bass Sanctuary Building

Saturday, April 28

Minyan Service, 9:15 A.M. Gross Chapel
B'nai Mitzvah of Jeremy Alexander and
Zachary Dana 10:15 A.M.
Bat Mitzvah of Eliza Gray, 10:30 A.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

APRIL 6	7:07 P.M.
APRIL 13	7:15 P.M.
APRIL 20	7:21 P.M.
APRIL 27	7:29 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

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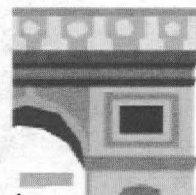
Tracy Horwitz, LSW

Bulletin

Sunny Seglin

Portico Dedication

Please join us for the dedication
of the Norma and
Abner Benisch
Portico on the
Mansion driveway
at 7:00 P.M. on
Friday, April 27.



e-mail

Have you been receiving Temple's weekly emails --
news, updates, calendar events? If you haven't
please email Executive Director, Leslie Sporn at
lsporn@tsti.org.



**Slucker Religious
School registration for
2007-2008 will be
mailed out in early May.**



From the Rabbi's Study

One of my teachers once pointed out that at its most basic level, the

Passover seder is a pedagogic tool. All of the food, the numerous rituals and even the way in which we are instructed to sit during the meal, are there to engage us in discussion and to elicit a response — most often in the form of a question (or four!!) This highly ordered (*seder*) meal is there to remind us not to take freedom for granted, not to lose sight of God's presence in the world, and to never underestimate the importance and the obligation to question and learn.

And it works. For it is not difficult to look at the text of the Passover Haggadah each year and find new questions to ask, new insights to offer, or new meanings hidden within this most ancient ritual. Take, for example, the section of the Haggadah commonly referred to as the Four Children. The Haggadah speaks of four children: the **chacham** — the wise, the **rasha** — the wicked, the **tam** — the simple, and **she'eino yode'a lish'ol** — the one who does not even know how to ask a question. Some see the four children not as four individuals, but as four characteristics that each of us exhibits at one time or another. There are times when we are truly wise. There are times when we want or need to reduce things to their most simplistic level. There are times when we do not know where to even begin. And there are times when, while we may not be wicked, we feel disengaged and want someone else to deal with the issues facing us.

This year the second of the four children captured my attention. For it is not so much that the rasha is evil or

wicked, but rather that he/she separates him/herself from the rest of the family or community. The rasha sees where the issues are. He/she may even have ideas about how to fix them. But instead of engaging in trying to find a solution the rasha is content to point fingers, to pass the buck and leave things to others.

In today's language the rasha is the one who is often heard uttering those infamous (and unproductive words) — "Someone should..." On a world level they say — "Someone should do something about global warming." Or "...Darfur." On a national level they say, "Someone should create a plan for universal healthcare." Even on a communal level they say, "Someone should fix this or that issue at TSTI." (One issue that cries out for help at TSTI is finding new chairpersons who will continue our longstanding commitment to the TSTI Soup Kitchen at the Lighthouse. I sincerely hope that this plea is heard by at least one person who will step forward and say "I am that person who should..."")

Time and time again, in setting after setting, the rashes of our age see trouble in our world, but expect someone else to fix it. The Passover Seder reminds us that one of the obligations that comes with freedom is the responsibility to not only identify the problems of our world, but to actively do our part to help solve them. Passover reminds us that the adage, "If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem" may be trite, but it is also completely and totally true.

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 morning coffee with **Rabbi Miller** and **Jill Kushner**, chair of TSTI's Social Action Committee.

As part of our introductory sessions for new members, Rabbi Miller and Jill will discuss their passion for Tikkun Olam. The small setting allows our newest members to get to know our clergy and lay leaders and to enjoy free

flowing and informal conversations. So bring your questions and join us on Sunday, April 22, in the mansion.

Coffee and bagels will be served from 8.30 a.m on, and our conversation will start at 9.00 a.m. Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling **Monique de la Cour-Lurie** at 973-275-1420 or by e-mailing monique_lurie@yahoo.com.



The President's Point of View

There was excitement at the March meeting of the Board of Trustees. David Baum spoke on behalf of the Campaign to announce the initial funding of \$500,000 into the Endowment Fund. Interest from the fund will go towards Temple programs. Gates of Israel Foundation President, Jay Rice, confirmed that the Gates Foundation also will provide funds for TSTI programming. Up to 5% of the income from each fund may be distributed annually.

Mark Schaevitz presented revised plans for the renovation, incorporating a portion of the Montrose property. The Board voted to proceed with developing new plans and pricing the project, as revised. The renderings show construction of a new Chapel extending off the enlarged central lobby onto the rear of the Montrose property. A new multi-function space will adjoin the Chapel. There will be a wider, safer, and more expedient car pool route, flowing around the new construction.

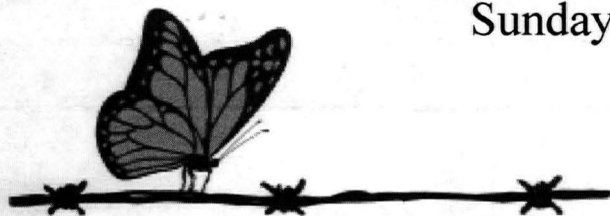
We are not planning to make any changes in the front of the property. The house and property visible from Montrose Avenue will look the same.

The central part of TSTI will be the education building. The flexible Bet Tefilla/classroom space will become permanent classrooms for the religious school. We will not need to build the new classroom building in front of Temple. Plans are being developed to improve the pre-school facility and to modify the atrium area for the pre-school.

The beautiful Mansion terrace will be extended this summer, as will the walled, pre-school playground on Scotland road near the driveway. There will be renderings for the congregation to view so that you can share our renewed excitement for our future.

Barbara Stoller

South Orange/Maplewood 30th Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service Sunday, April 15



Torchlight March of Remembrance 5:45 p.m.
(assemble at corner of Indiana St. & Springfield Ave.,
Maplewood)

Remembrance Service 6:30 p.m.
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
767 Prospect St., Maplewood

"Remember and Tell"
Survivors from the Shoah and Rwanda

SPEAKERS:
Jacqueline Murekatete & David Gewirtzman

MODERATOR:
David Brancaccio - host of NOW on PBS

Co-sponsored by South Mountain Lodge of B'nai B'rith, South Orange/Maplewood Clergy Association
and the Holocaust Council of MetroWest



Play "Fore" Temple



Are you ready to get involved?
Join us at the
TSTI Golf and Tennis Benefit Outing
Monday, June 4, 2007

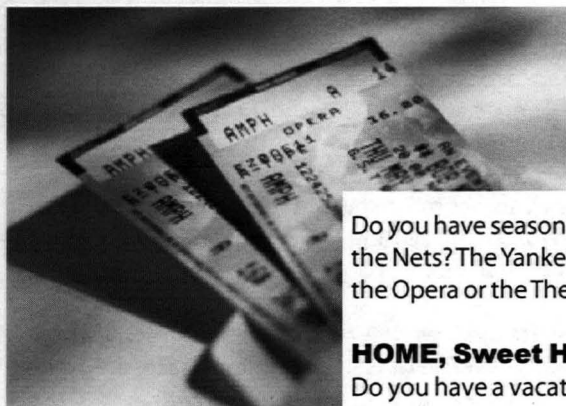


Each year TSTI holds an event that helps to provide funding for our various TSTI programs, offers dues relief to many of our members, as well as tuition assistance to religious school families. This year the event is going to be a spectacular Golf and Tennis Outing. It will take place all day on Monday, June 4th and there is something for everyone.

Ways to get involved...

- Become an Event or Dinner or Lunch Sponsor
- Become an Sponsor, purchase a Golf Foursome or play as a single
 - Play in the Tennis round robin
 - Play in the card or mah jongg tournament
- Attend the gala evening dinner party & auction
 - Purchase a tee or tennis court sign
- Help out with planning the event (we need you!)
- Volunteer on the day of the event (we really need you!)
 - Help us collect items for our auctions

In whatever way you can, please help us to make this a hugely successful fundraiser for our beloved TSTI! For more information, contact co-chairs Peggy Barnett (973) 763-9723 or Carla Boden (973) 376-2445. Look for your invitation which will arrive in the mail any day!



TICKETS, TICKETS! Calling all ticket holders!

Do you have season tickets to the Knicks, The Rangers, The Giants or The Jets? The Devils, the Nets? The Yankees or the Mets? Do you have tickets to the Ballet or the Philharmonic, the Opera or the Theatre?

HOME, Sweet HOMES?

Do you have a vacation home or a time share? A weekend getaway or beach house?

Jewelry, Wine or Gift items? Do you have a retail business or a friend with one?

Please contact **Rochelle Schaevitz** at (973) 379-9448 with any items you are able to donate. Thank you!

Please help us out by donating an item, a pair of tickets or a week (or weekend) at your home to the TSTI Golf and Tennis Benefit auction? We would really appreciate your support. We want to make this auction a wonderful and enticing part of our evening festivities and we can't do this without you!

Mitzvah Milestones

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these. ~ George Washington Carver

Soup Kitchen: We Need Two New Co-Chairs

After 2 years of dedicated service, **Pam Rayvid** and **Jane Kagan** will be stepping down as co-chairs of the TSTI Soup Kitchen at the Lighthouse in Newark. A hearty thanks to Pam and Jane for their excellent efforts as we wrap up our sixth year at the Lighthouse. We would like to continue this commitment to people who really need our help, so we need two new chairpeople. If feeding the hungry is a mission that is close to your heart, please contact Pam Rayvid at PRAYVID@aol.com or 973-912-8929, or contact Jane Kagan at jane@campbrynmaur.com or 973-376-4157. They will be happy to help you get started on this important work.

Incredible Family Experience

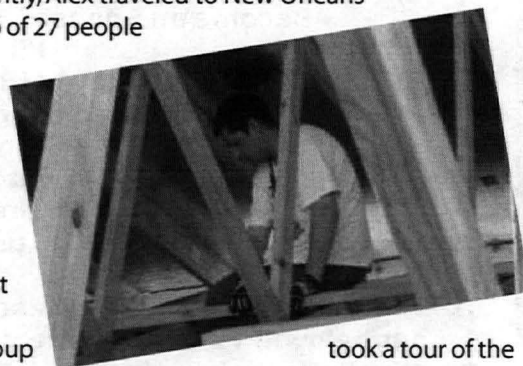
TSTI volunteers feed approximately 100 persons for lunch at the Lighthouse Family Shelter and Soup Kitchen two Sundays a month. Last month my family was privileged, YES PRIVILEGED, to help. It is an amazingly rewarding experience. The people being fed are polite, respectful and thankful. It leaves every individual involved with a good feeling after directly helping people in need. Volunteers cook the meal, then serve it on plates to each person. There is an easy job for each member of the family, no matter the age. At our own family lunch after we finished, my 13 year old said we should do this every month, and my 18 year old agreed. No parent could ask for more.-- *Anonymous Temple Family*

Eppes Essen, the deli restaurant at 105 East Mount Pleasant Ave. in Livingston, has graciously agreed to donate soup and bread every week to the Soup Kitchen or the Community FoodBank of NJ because of a contact made by a TSTI congregant who was a Soup Kitchen volunteer! We are thrilled that the lunches recently served by TSTI volunteers at Lighthouse had Eppes Essen Mushroom Barley Soup or Chicken Noodle Soup on the menu. They also provided a multitude of rye bread and rolls that could be eaten at lunch, or taken home to be used later. **THANK YOU EPPES ESSEN!**

Habitat: The Next Generation Picks Up the Hammer

TSTI is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity Newark, sending volunteers to Newark to build Habitat houses several times each year. But some TSTI members are doing much more. One such volunteer is **Alex Paster**, son of Iris Family Preschool Director (and Habitat Board Officer) Carol Paster. Recently, Alex traveled to New Orleans with a group of 27 people

from Newark Habitat. As well as working to fix and build homes for victims of last year's hurricane, the group



took a tour of the devastation in New Orleans and Mississippi. It appears that Habitat International is the only group building consistently in New Orleans at this time.

Did you know that Habitat is coming to West Orange? With property values in Newark at an all-time high, the group is looking for opportunities to build affordable housing in neighboring towns. The Township of West Orange will be the site of Habitat's first such effort, and plans are underway for a new building on Whittlesey Avenue. Work should get underway sometime in the late summer or fall, so we are looking forward to putting TSTI volunteers to work in a town that is home to many of our own members.

In the meanwhile, we have a new work day scheduled for Sunday, May 6 in Newark. Volunteer spaces are limited, so contact **Barbara Laub** and **Dennis Percher** at 973-763-8379 or blaub@comcast.net to reserve a spot. Your donations make this important work possible—mail your tax deductible contributions to Habitat Newark at P.O. Box 3246, Newark, NJ 07103.

Jill Kushner

Social Action Chair
jillmkushner@gmail.com



INTERFAITH OUTREACH

The Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel (TSTI) 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 through social, cultural and educational programming.

We hope you were able to join us for our program: Sharing Shabbat: A Program for Jewish children and their non-Jewish Grandparents (extended family too), sponsored by a grant from the UJC of MetroWest NJ.

Our committee is currently very busy preparing for our upcoming program on Birth/Adoption and Naming ceremonies for May 20, 2007 at 3:00 pm. This program is also being sponsored by a grant from the UJC of MetroWest NJ.

If you are interested in upcoming events, or just would like more information or to become involved with the Interfaith Outreach Committee, please contact Jennifer Larson by phone 973-762-6636 or email jrltsti@comcast.net.

The Interfaith Outreach Committee welcomes the participation of all temple members and all events are open to the entire temple and non-temple member community.

Here we are, Sam-I-am, It's time to eat greens, eggs and lamb.

For non-Jewish family members or guests at our seder, it is vital that we do our utmost to make them comfortable. Explaining the story of Exodus is our charge, and making sure that we explain it well, will help our non-Jewish participants to understand why we gather each year, in our homes rather than in the temple, to relay this important story.

The following article: "Tips for Interfaith Families: How to Make a Seder Inclusive" by Ronnie Friedland and Edmund Case is reprinted here with permission from interfaithfamily.com.

Unlike most Jewish holidays, Passover is observed primarily in the home. And the Passover seder, or ritual meal that marks the start of the festival, is the Jewish holiday with the highest participation rates.

According to the InterfaithFamily.com Passover Predicament Survey, 97 percent of respondents participated in Passover celebrations last year (compared with 92 percent who reported participating in Hanukkah celebrations in an earlier survey).

An important Jewish value is to invite strangers to the seder, which celebrates freedom. The following tips are designed to make non-Jews feel more comfortable with the holiday, rituals and traditions.

1. Prepare your partner, children, and non-Jewish guests. As more and more non-Jewish partners and non-Jewish stepchildren attend seders, letting them know what to expect will be helpful. Whether you are hosting or attending a seder, explain what will happen, who will be there, what will be eaten and when, and what they will be asked to do during the meal. Tell everyone that welcoming non-Jews to the seder makes it a special and more valuable occasion and that the purpose of the seder is not to proselytize anyone, but to celebrate freedom.

2. Select the right hagaddah, the book that contains the order, blessings, narrative and songs for the seder. There are hagaddahs to reflect different approaches and needs, from traditional to liberal, from recovering alcoholics to feminists to vegetarians and more. Consider selecting a hagaddah that:

- Uses Hebrew with aligned translation and transliteration, so that people unfamiliar with Hebrew are better able to follow along.
- Is inclusive and reflects gender equality.
- Provides background and explanations for the rituals.

3. In advance of the seder, rephrase parts of it to be more welcoming to the people who will be coming to it. Doing this with your partner's and/or children's help, might enable them to feel more a part of things and can unite the family.

4. A writer for InterfaithFamily.com wrote some wonderful blessings to add to the seder that specifically welcome non-Jews. Visit this URL to find them: <http://www.interfaithfamily.com/article/issue106/raphael.phtml>. You can include some or all of these in your own seder, or write your own blessings, with your family.

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Mazel Tov To Our B'nai Mitzvah



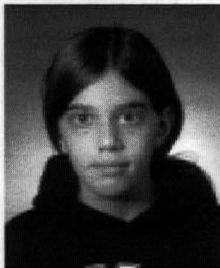
Jenna Morgan Rimland will be called to the Torah on Saturday, April 14. With her will be her parents, **Sharon** and **Allan Rimland**, sister, Katie, and grandparents Sheila and Allan Orr, and Rosalind and Elias Rimland. Jenna attends Millburn Middle School where her favorite subject is language arts. She enjoys playing lacrosse, and tennis in her free time. Her "Mitzvah Project" was volunteering her time to reach out to seniors at Daughters of Israel Nursing Home.

"Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means I'm not just a kid anymore and there are many responsibilities I now have to take on," says Jenna.



Jeremy Michael Gardner, son of **Joyce** and **Glenn Gardner**, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 14. Grandparents Phyllis Schachter and Ruth and Seymour Gardner, and sister Alix will join him on this special occasion. Jeremy is a student at Heritage Middle School where he enjoys math, technology, social studies, science and sports. In his free time he likes drawing and playing video games. He is raising money through bake sales for research on multiple sclerosis and support of Seeing Eye dogs for his "Mitzvah Project."

Jeremy says, "This means I will take more responsibility and be treated as a Jewish adult."



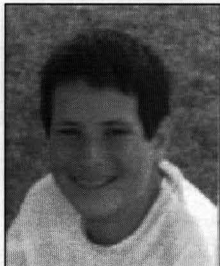
Julia Beth Levenberg, daughter of **Rachel** and **Joel Levenberg**, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 21. Beth will be joined by her sister and brother, Ruth and Aaron, and grandfather, Rabbi David Greenberg. Julia is a seventh grader at Millburn Middle School. She likes social studies and being with friends.

Julia notes, "My Bat Mitzvah means that I am becoming an adult and honoring everyone, including God. It is the most important thing in a Jew's life."



Jessica Lynne Pitman is looking forward to becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 21 with her parents, **Susan** and **David Pitman**, siblings, Rachel and Benjamin, and grandparents, Eileen Roth and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pitman sharing the day. Jessica enjoys spending time with her friends, and studying science and language arts at South Orange Middle School. She helped a newly widowed woman with two young children by offering to babysit and help with chores for her "Mitzvah Project."

"I am maturing and becoming a Jewish adult, entering a world with new responsibilities and concerns," says Jessica.



Jared Dreier Wishnow, son of **Sue** and **David Wishnow**, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 21. Grandparents Sandra and Bill Dreier and Eileen and Irwin Wishnow, and sister, Emma, look forward to celebrating with him. Jared enjoys science, math and social studies at Millburn Middle School, and finds spare time for playing soccer, tennis and the drums. His "Mitzvah Project" is working with the Friendship Circle, spending time with children with special needs.

Jared says, "Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means that I am taking a giant step in becoming an adult in the Jewish religion. It means that I will focus more on my religion and increase the charitable activities in my life."



Evan Thomas Wolf will be called to the Torah on Saturday, April 21. Joining him will be his parents, **Kelly** and **Rick Wolf**, siblings Aaron, Jared and Kayla, and grandparents Jessie and Richard Byrnes, Bonnie and Herbert Wolf and Roberta Wolf. Evan attends Millburn Middle School and loves math, skateboarding, skiing, baseball, listening to music and playing his guitar. For his "Mitzvah Project," Evan is coordinating a collection of clothing and food to donate to St. Joseph's Social Service Center and Coalition for the Homeless in Elizabeth, NJ.

"I think that becoming a Bar Mitzvah is not the end of my Jewish education; it is just the beginning," says Evan. "With acceptance into the adult Jewish community, I feel a new sense of responsibility and look forward to being a role model for younger people."



Mazel Tov To Our B'nai Mitzvah



Zachary Scott Dana, son of **Jeri** and **Michael Dana**, looks forward to his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 28. Joining him will be his sister and brother, Paige and Ryan, and grandparents, Arlene and Murray Weiss. Zack attends Millburn Middle School where he enjoys social studies. He also likes everything involving sports. His "Mitzvah Project" involves working with "Meals on Wheels," delivering food to the homebound. Zack says of this milestone, "This means that I have new responsibilities and I am becoming a man in the eyes of God."



Eliza Hope Gray will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 28. She is the daughter of **Robin** and **Steve Gray**, and sister of Adam. Grandparents Susan and Dick Sandler anticipate sharing the day with her. Eliza's favorite subject at South Orange Middle School is science and she enjoys soccer, basketball and being with family and friends. She designed an awareness bracelet to raise money to train seeing eye dogs in Israel and New Jersey for her "Mitzvah Project." Eliza says, "This is very important to me. I feel that once I have become a bat mitzvah I will have changed into a Jewish adult. I am very appreciative that my family is making this special event for me."



Jeremy William Alexander will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 28. Celebrating with him are his parents, **Susan** and **David Alexander**, sister Cecily, and grandparents Sheila and David Eidelman and Connie and Joe Alexander. Jeremy attends Millburn Middle School where he likes math and computers. He enjoys playing baseball, reading and playing on the computer. Jeremy's "Mitzvah Project" is to raise money for "Free the Soldiers," a campaign raising awareness of the plight of three Israeli soldiers captured last summer. Jeremy notes, "I will have more responsibilities as a young adult and more hard work. I look forward to becoming an active member of the Jewish community."

Linda and Rudy Slucker Religious School



"There is nothing magical or mystical about it — nothing requiring two PhD's or expertise in software configuration management. Find some Mitzvah heroes, find some money, work with them, give to them, and be happy."

Danny Siegel

When a former colleague of mine recommended I apply to participate in Danny Siegel's Mitzvah Hero tour in February, I simply saw it as a way to return to Israel. The tour happened to fall during our school vacation... a bonus. I submitted an essay and happily I was not only accepted, but granted a scholarship from the **Ziv Tzedakah Fund**. An inexpensive trip to Israel at a convenient time... couldn't beat that.

When I began to tell others I was going on Danny's trip I was surprised to hear that he was so well-known. Some commented that I would get little sleep on this trip, while others told me how life-altering the experience would be. I was going to Israel and honestly, that was good enough for me. The week before I left, I joined the other trip participants in a conference call with Danny. From the phone call, I started to realize this would be like no other trip to Israel.

(cont. on next page)

(cont. from page 7)

5. Assign everyone passages from the hagaddah to read aloud during the seder. Participating in this way can give your partner, children and friends a better opportunity to experience the seder. Review the hagaddah before the seder to identify appropriate sections for them.

6. Connect the story of the Passover liberation story to other freedom stories, past or present, political and/or psychological (such as freedom from negative patterns). If there are particular struggles that people attending your seder would relate to (such as the struggle for independence in India if an Indian woman will attend), be sure to mention them. Or discuss ten "plagues" that we face today. This discussion may engage your partner, children and friends.

7. Have fun. Seders can be relaxed and informal. According to Ron Wolfson, a leading Jewish educator and the author of *Passover: The Family Guide to Spiritual Celebration* (Jewish Lights Publishing), some families add favorite songs that children learn in religious school, such as "Go Down, Moses," "One Day When Pharaoh Awoke in His Bed," and others. A favorite parody is *Only Nine Chairs* by Deborah Uchill Miller (Kar-Ben Copies), a hilarious account of a family seder. For more tips on having fun at your seder, visit this URL: <http://www.interfaithfamily.com/article/issue106/wolfson.phtml>.

8. Don't forget the children. Traditional seders may have only three highlights for children: the Four Questions, the Ten Plagues, and the search for the afikomen. Non-Jewish children attending seders may only pay attention to the last two. Some families have created a "Pat the Bunny"-type hagaddah for young children, using coloring sheets and cotton balls on pictures of sheep, sandpaper on pictures of bricks of the pyramids, grape scratch-and-sniff stickers on pictures of the kiddush cups. Some even give children "goody bags" filled with Passover symbols, frog stickers, even moist towelettes for the inevitable spills of wine.

9. After the seder, talk with your family about the ways in which they felt comfortable and uncomfortable. Find ways to diminish any discomfort for the coming year's seder.

- P.S. I also recommend our own **Peri Smilow's** album "The Freedom Music Project – Music of Passover and the Civil Rights Movement" as a wonderful addition to any passover seder experience!

Thank you,

Jennifer Larson
Outreach Chair

(cont. from page 9)

If you politely inquire how my trip was I will tell you it was great. If you are sincerely interested in knowing how the trip was I will tell you it was painful, distressing, incredible, enlightening, beautiful and so much more. The trip evoked so many different emotions... I am at a loss for words to adequately define the experience. Though I lived in Israel for many years, the country I just returned from is very different from the one I once knew.

According to Jewish custom, one is protected from harm while on a mission to do a mitzvah. For this reason, Danny always made it a habit to collect a few dollars for tzedakah to be delivered upon his arrival in Israel. On a trip in 1975, Danny amassed \$955 and simply went in search of people in need. His only requirement was that the money "make a difference." From this simple idea grew the Ziv Tzedakah Fund that has distributed almost \$7,000,000 to over 100 little known non-profit organizations in Israel.

A group of about 20 other Jewish Educators had the opportunity to visit some of these organizations and to meet the Mitzvah Heroes behind the organizations. We visited with Hadassah Levi who literally saved the lives of over 30 children who were abandoned because they were born with Down Syndrome. We met Phyllis Heimowitz who started a support group for young girls struggling to cope with the death of their boyfriends who were killed while serving in the Israeli Defense Forces. We bagged food for hungry families (over half the population of Jerusalem is below the poverty level) and care packages for soldiers risking their lives in the territories. These are just some of the individuals we encountered.

It is difficult to return to a society where our "heroes" are the celebrities in the headlines. We thrive on scandalous, sensationalist stories of rock stars, actors and heiresses while our students emulate them. This past week I met real heroes who are not wealthy in ways our society defines and who go largely unacknowledged for their accomplishments. These quiet individuals are saving lives and bringing purpose to countless Israelis every day.

After some time to reflect on the trip, my task will be to determine ways I can implement what I have gleaned from this experience. I know that I will no longer be content in my life if I am not working to improve the lives of others. The struggle will be trying to impart this message to our students. These Mitzvah Heroes saw a need and they responded. We can all learn something from these individuals.

If you are interested in reading more about my Mitzvah Hero tour of Israel, please check out my blog at heroisrael.blogspot.org or contact me. I am happy to share.

Pia Kuttan
Assistant Religious School Director



The Iris Family



You will be reading this as we approach the holiday of Passover, but I am writing this as I am gearing up the preschool for our Purim celebrations so I thought I'd share with you two stories, but first I need to give you a little background.

I had once again been assigned to be the set designer for our senior staff Purimshpiel due to my 'uniquely creative flair.' For those of you who can't read between the lines, that is the polite way of telling me that with my singing voice there is no way that I will EVER be cast as Queen Esther, or for that matter, anyone other than the person in the chorus furthest away from the microphone, but I digress.

For this year's scenery I needed to purchase some lumber at Home Depot. It involved not only switching cars with my husband but also making sure that we each had removed all necessities from our own vehicles. Anxious about accomplishing my task before going to work, I skipped breakfast and set out early. Fortuitously I parked next to a lunch truck in the store's parking lot. Following a wheat and gluten-free diet, it is difficult for me to find breakfast products away from home, so I was excited to purchase an individual portion-sized bowl of Frosted Flakes, emblazoned with Tony the Tiger, sitting on the shelf of this traveling diner.

To get the full picture of where my mind was on this particular day, I also need to mention that this story takes place on a Thursday morning, which means I also needed to stop to pick up bagels and cream cheese for my teachers, as I normally do every week. It is also the day that the 2 year-olds have their Purim parade, and I wasn't sure where in the preschool I had stored my bird costume from the previous year. You should also know that the school had been closed for vacation the week before, we had had a snow day on the Monday we were to return and on my first day back, Tuesday, I was attending a 5 hour Purimshpiel rehearsal. Camp registration forms were coming in and this bulletin article was due. Teachers were out sick or caught in California without a flight home so I needed to cover classes, and substitutes were hard to find. I hadn't slept well the night before and I felt a headache coming on and I needed to get outside to get carpool started for drop off.

Okay, so I may have had a few grownup things on my mind, but now that I have set the stage, let me tell my stories.

Story # 1: I am walking down the preschool hallway towards my office wearing my bird costume and looking forward to eating my recently purchased Frosted Flakes when a teacher stops to ask me about a concern she has for a child and how to go about mentioning this to the parents without upsetting them. We walk into my assistant Stacey's office and the teacher takes a seat and I sit on the only available spot, a beanbag chair. A few minutes into this very serious conversation, Stacey bursts out in laughter. She explains to us that she just realized that there could be no other job she could think of where her boss would ever be sitting on a beanbag chair let alone dressed in a bright red satin cape and matching bright red hat with a giant bird's beak and crested feathers discussing the possibility of a child having special needs. We all agree that this is ridiculous but as I am waiting for the two's parade to begin, I do not take off my costume.

Story # 2: Quite awhile later, after the conversation with the teacher is finished and Stacey and I have caught each other up on the tasks for the day, I continue to my office still looking forward to eating breakfast and wondering if the milk I bought with my cereal is starting to go bad having been sitting on my desk for more than an hour. Another teacher follows me in to ask if I have any printed information about shiva observance to give to her non-Jewish friends who were concerned that they didn't know the right thing to do at a Jewish house of mourning. I looked through my library of information, called the appropriate offices in the temple and listened to the full concerns of caring, concerned friends trying to do the right thing. At one point I interrupted the teacher to ask if it were okay to eat my breakfast as she was talking to me. Given the okay, I peeled the lid off of my Frosted Flakes emblazoned with Tony the Tiger, poured on the lukewarm milk, (whole milk no less), took a first spoonful and heard a loud giggle coming from this teacher. Looking up at her as milk was dribbling from my mouth full of sweet sustenance, she lovingly explained that it was hard to take any of my conversation about the observance of a friend's death seriously when I was sitting there looking like a 5 year-old eating Frosted Flakes while dressed as a giant red bird.

Carol Paster

Preschool Director



*Wishing you and your family a happy,
meaningful and memorable Passover.*

Stephanie Alexander
Caron Alpert
Alana Amaya
Adrienne Ament
Ellen Barocas
Sylvia Baron
Andrea Baum
Leslie Bayer
Josie Beazley
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Susan Berkley
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From the Members of The Womens Connection

Visit the Gift Shop

The Women's Connection Gift Shop is featuring new Passover items, especially beautiful porcelain, wood, glass and silver **sedder plates** and matching **matzah trays**. We have **"Plague Bags"** for the kids, and **Mah Jongg cups and plates** – a great hostess gift. AND all our silver jewelry is on sale at give-away prices!

Shop Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday during Religious School hours when school is in session
Friday evening after services
Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Or by appointment



The Women's Connection hosted their fifth annual Women's Seder. We had an amazing turnout of women of all ages that enthusiastically participated and helped to make the evening unforgettable. A huge amount of preparation work went into adding several special touches to enhance the evening. Some of these new additions included a modified Passover Haggadah that included poetry from Holocaust survivors, a prayer for those in Darfur, lots more songs and the Miriam dance. With each of the four cups of wine, a woman from our congregation spoke about a special woman in her life that made an impact and during the meal, women around each table talked about important issues, lessons and memories. We also modified the menu and served a Sephardic Passover dinner that included two different homemade Sephardic charoset. All of our guests were given a cookbook filled with delicious Passover recipes from our congregation.

A huge thank you to **Laurie Landau** for chairing this fabulous event. Her enthusiasm, creativity and energy were contagious. But this evening couldn't have happened without a very organized and dedicated group of women who wanted to make this year's Women's Seder special in every way.....so another big thank you to:

Andrea Baum
Sherrie Binder
Randi Butcher
Carla Boden
Larkin Cohan
Dianne Eglow
Muriel B. Fielo
Alice Forman
Linda Gelfand
Arlene Gordon
Sarah Gordon
Robin Katz
Lisa Tilton Levine

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Pam Riesenber
Janet Schwamm
Sandy Schuman
Sunny Seglin
Susan Siegeltuch Witkin
Elly Silverstein
Helene Sorin
Marcia Weinstein
Gert Zoref

Also a special thank you to **Nancy Kislin Flaum**, for leading two classes on balancing healthy minds and healthy bodies. The workshops were terrific and all those that attended greatly appreciated learning more about the holistic approach and tools for dealing with some of life's issues.

And lastly, save the date for a book discussion and dessert with Rabbi Cohen.

Book: Sotah by Naomi Ragen

Date: May 9th

Time: 7-9 pm

Place: The Mansion at TSTI

RSVP: Larkin Cohan at CohanFamily@comast.net

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



Run for Rachel
Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence
Sunday, April 29, 2007
Oval at Memorial Park
Livingston, NJ
9:30 a.m.
Registration 7:45 a.m.
5K Run • 3K Walk • Kids' Run

For additional information, please call the Rachel Coalition, (973) 765-9050 ext. 400 or email: sheller@jfs-metronj.org or visit us on the web at www.rachelcoalition.org

Run for Rachel

TSTI member **Robyn Erlich** is chairing Run for Rachel, an event that raises awareness about domestic violence. Run for Rachel will be held at Livingston High School on April 29th. Email Robyn at aled1@aol.com or call her at 973-736-2483 if you have any questions about participating either as an individual or as part of a team.

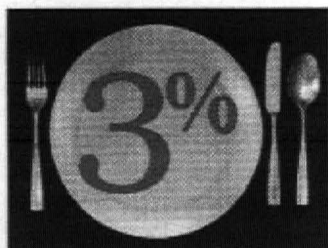
Memorial Plaques

**A Beautiful Way to
Memorialize
a Beloved Family Member**

We know that many of you would like to purchase a bronze plaque in memory of a loved one who has died. The cost of a plaque is \$700. Every name on our Memorial Board is noted in perpetuity on the appropriate yahrzeit.

For further information, please call Sunny Seglin at the Temple office, 973-763-4116

MAZON



Founded in 1985, **MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger**, is a national nonprofit organization that allocates donations from the Jewish community to prevent and alleviate hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds.

In the spirit of Jewish tradition, make the Passover season even more special by providing food and other help to poor families everywhere. **Contribute 3% of your holiday meal costs.** You will enrich their lives — and your own.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, 1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90025-5232

Renaissance Group

Our trip to New York City on March 13 was a special experience that met the expectations of our chairpersons, **Bettye Green** and **Bobbe Futterman**. We really enjoyed the day they planned for us.

Our next event is in our own hometown. Join us for a concert at the South Orange Performing Arts Center on April 28 where we will hear the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Besides enjoying the music, it will be a trip down memory lane. If you have not been to "our" South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC), this is an opportunity to become acquainted with this 500-seat auditorium that is a wonderful venue for both a musical or a dramatic presentation. If you are not familiar with the location, it is on a tract of land behind the stores on South Orange Avenue. More specifically, access can be gained by using the road adjacent to Bunny's Restaurant at the traffic light. It may also be approached from Church Street. If you can "car pool," it will be easier to park. Please plan to be at the Arts Center in time for a 7 o'clock performance.

After the performance, we will enjoy a sumptuous dessert reception at the home of **Linda** and **Joel Scharf**. They live in Maplewood, not too far from the theater and easy to reach from South Orange. Details will be sent to you shortly and will contain instructions for the easiest route. Watch your mail and be sure to return your check and reservations promptly. We can only accommodate 40 people. We are looking forward to a relaxing evening of entertainment, camaraderie and delicious desserts.

The finale for the season is our trip to Boston the weekend of Friday, May 18 to Sunday, May 20. The bus will leave the Temple parking lot early Friday and following lunch we will visit the Kennedy Library. We will be staying at the Braintree Sheraton Hotel for the weekend and after checking in and relaxing, we will have dinner at the hotel. Saturday morning, after breakfast, we will go to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, lunch and then to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. This will be a step back into gracious Venetian grandeur with the additional bonus of viewing Titian, Rembrandt, Whistler, and Sargent paintings among others. Dinner is at the well-known Legal Seafood Restaurant which originated in Boston.

Early on Sunday morning, following breakfast, we will go to Quincy, Massachusetts to the Adams Historical National Park for a guided tour of the birthplaces of John Adams, and John Quincy Adams, our 2nd and 6th Presidents. This weekend has everything: culture, history, good food and good friends. Hopefully, you have sent your deposit and reservation form to Bobbe Futterman and you will be with us.

We look forward to seeing you on April 28. We all need a reward for having "weathered" the horrible and varied weather of these past two months.

Florence Seglin

All in the Family

Mazel Tov to:

Diane Lieberfarb on the birth of her great granddaughter, Charli Jade Goldstein.

Cathie Rankin on her son, Sean, passing the New Jersey Bar and on Sean's marriage to Adrienne Gaydick.

Jennifer Wiederkehr and **David Rothberg** on their marriage.

Bonnie Jaffe on the engagement of her daughter, Mindy, to Per Chilstrom. Mindy is also the daughter of the late Joel Jaffe.



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 Temple Funds.

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IN MEMORY OF

Sue Shapiro, wife of Stanley Shapiro
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Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Pomper
Barbara & David Stoller

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IN APPRECIATION
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Marion Wolf

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Paul Rosenberg's special birthday & new law firm partnership
Matty & Dan Goldberg

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Bar Mitzvah of Pauline Pollack's grandson
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Ira Danzig
Shari Stein

*In
Memoriam*

MARY CRAWFORD
Mother of Lynn Crawford

MEL LEVIN
Husband of Rosalind Levin

MARJORIE POMERANTZ
Aunt of Steven Pomerantz

JAMES UTTERBACK
Husband of Laura Levy
Father of Matthew and Eli

ARLENE WERTHEIM
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be for a blessing*



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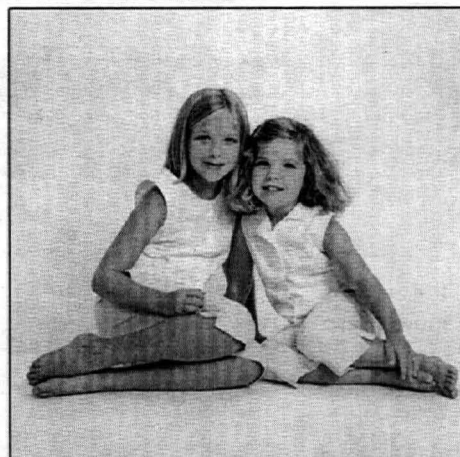
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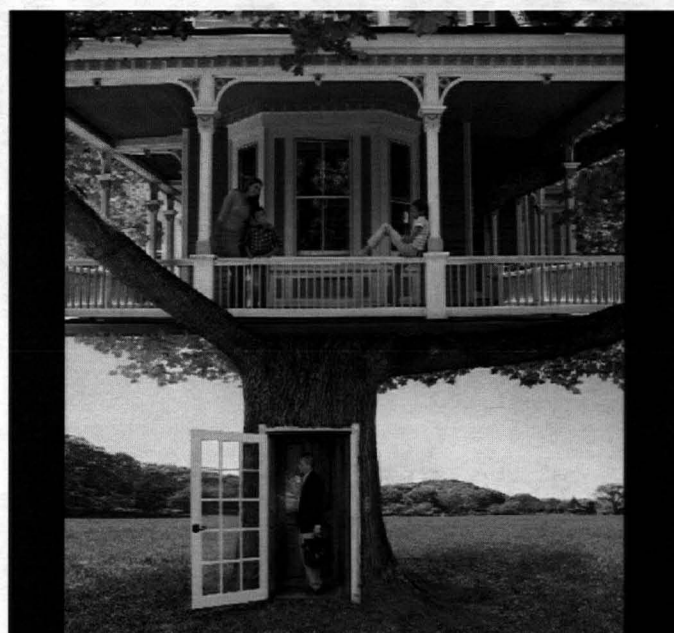
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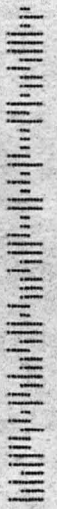
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