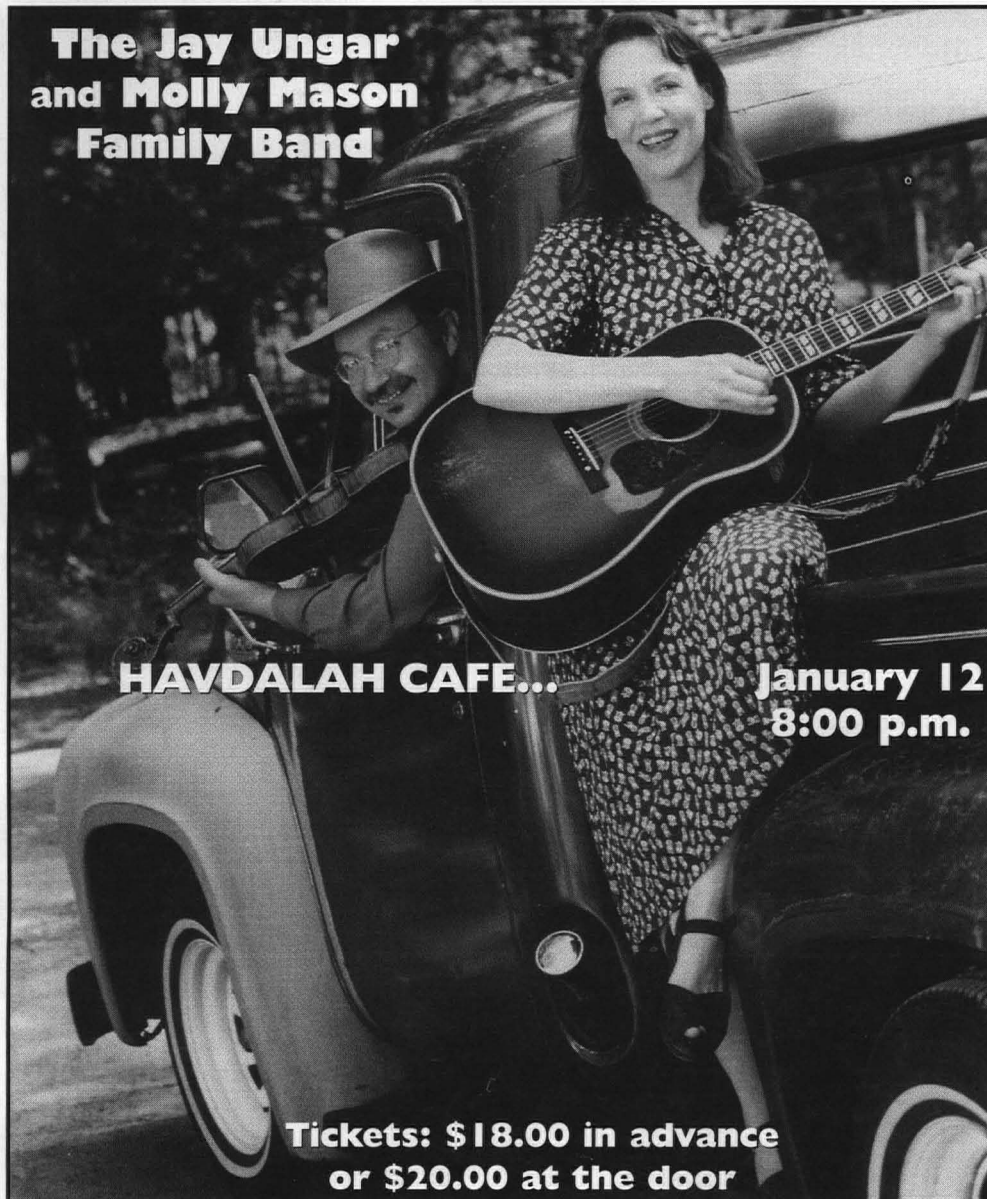


# Temple Topics

january 2002 ☆ tevet — shevat 5762

## The Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band



**HAVDALAH CAFE...**

**January 12  
8:00 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$18.00 in advance  
or \$20.00 at the door**

## The Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band

**January 12, 2002 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$18.00 in advance  
or \$20.00 at the door**

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason have become two of America's best-known folk musicians through their work on numerous PBS documentary soundtracks and as frequent guests on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Known as a fiddler's fiddler, Jay gained international fame by composing and performing *Ashokan Farewell*, the haunting theme from the Grammy Award-winning soundtrack of Ken Burns *The Civil War*.

To purchase tickets send checks to:  
Temple Ner Tamid  
Attn: Havdalah Cafe  
936 Broad Street  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

## Embracing Shabbat at Ner Tamid in January

The casual minyon will be held on the third Saturday, January 19, instead of the usual second Saturday, due to the Spirituality Kallah on January 12. As always, all are welcome to join as we embrace Shabbat. We read the entire parscha and partake in a spirited discussion. Then stay to enjoy the informal kiddush luncheon which follows. Babysitting is provided.

### B'nai Mitzvah

Jan. 5: Adrienne Cohen / Jan. 12: Daniel Finger / Jan. 19: Stuart Harwood and Julian Kramer / Jan. 26: Andrew Wiesner

Erev Shabbat services at 8 p.m. Babysitting is available every Friday night ☆ Tot Shabbat Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.

Babysitting during Shabbat services is available on January 12, 19, 26.

## TEMPLE NER TAMID

936 Broad Street  
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003  
Telephone: (973) 338-1500  
Fax: (973) 338-4486  
www.neramid.org

A PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE SERVING  
BLOOMFIELD, GLEN RIDGE, MONTCLAIR  
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Member UAHC

### **Rabbi**

Steven Kushner

### **Cantor**

Jessica Levitt

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Inge Strauss

### **Youth Group President**

Alexandra Klein

### **Temple Topics Staff**

Barbara Shapiro Furst

Elinor Neifeld

from

**Marge Grayson** *President*

Along with the Rabbi, Cantor, and 10 other Temple people (Barbara Furst, Mark Perwien, Robert Rich, Rob Rosenberg, Sharon Rosen, Rick Abrams, Mark Dunn, Kathy Kahn, David Katowitz), I have just returned from the UAHC Biennial Convention in Boston. This is the governing/umbrella organization of more than 900 Reform congregations. The 13 of us (+ the Kushner family for Shabbat) participated in 5 days of meetings, workshops, services, etc. with nearly 6000 Reform Jews from North America and Israel. I'm not sure if we came back more exhausted or energized.

Programming ran from 7 a.m. to midnight. In plenary sessions, we honored firefighters from FDNY Battalion 8, who had rescued the Torahs from the Central Synagogue fire in NYC (and had brought them back in on September 9) and who lost members on September 11th. We honored a Reform Jewish Day School in Boston for its Tzedakah projects.

We had a live video hook-up with Avram Burg, Speaker of the Knesset, from Jerusalem. While Orthodox, he believes in pluralism and is supportive of the progressive streams of Judaism. He spoke eloquently on hopes for peace and against unilateral separation from the Palestinians. Interestingly, we also heard from an Israeli professor whose name escapes me, who spoke for unilateral separation, but also mentioned that her introduction to Reform Judaism in the U.S. transformed her life. Since her return to Israel, her family has become involved in a Reform synagogue, and she said she's learned more about Judaism in the past year than ever before. She says that Israelis hunger for what Reform Judaism can give them.

A Torah given to President John Kennedy by the Reform movement in 1961 was returned to us by his nephew Joseph Kennedy in a moving ceremony; that Torah was used for an aliyah during Shabbat services.

Thursday evening there was a tribute to Rabbi Alexander Schindler, the former Chairman of the UAHC. At the end, Peter Yarrow sang as a warm-up act for our own Cantor Jessica Levitt who sang "Shalom Rav" to 5000 people—and brought the house down!

Of course, there were thousands of workshops on everything from learning trope to running your office and raising money, from music to social action, from interfaith issues to the state of Judaism throughout the world. Rabbi Kushner moderated one session; Cantor Levitt and Mark Dunn participated in one on High Holiday music.

And then Shabbat came. It is hard to explain what participating in services with 6000 people is like. Both familiar and unfamiliar melodies and liturgy were used. I think we all were somewhat overwhelmed. It was sort of like Yom Kippur in its awesome feeling. We had Shabbat dinner with our region (and yes, the food was exactly what you would expect when they're serving 6000 chicken dinners). Following dinner, there was a song session that left everyone with sore throats!

On Saturday morning, hundreds of people danced with the Torahs as they were carried through the congregation. This was the opportunity for Rabbi Eric Yoffie to give his keynote address/sermon. He called upon synagogues to improve their religious schools (with some pride, I note that nearly every change he called for we already implement), expressed support for the war against terrorism, but cautioned that the Constitution cannot be abridged, expressed support for Israel and a negotiated settlement.

*(continued on page 5)*

from

**Rabbi Steven Kushner**

Maybe I'm just a bit oversensitive, but I always feel that when Jews speak of *reform*—as in Reform Judaism—they do so as if it's something *less than*. Less than whatever it's supposed to be. And often, we are the most guilty. As transgressors of Groucho's first rule of self-deprecation, we've gone and joined the club that would have us as a member. You know I'm right. When you see Jews 'walking' to *shul* on Shabbat morning, or when the young guys in black suits and black hats come into your office to nudge you to put on *tefillin*, there's that little voice in the back of your head that's saying, "Yeah, now there's a *real Jew*."

There once was a time, however, when the word *reform* carried prestige. When the notion of making changes for the better was deemed of value. A good thing. Whether it was educational or political, social or economic, to *reform* was to straighten that which had become crooked, correct that which had become wrong. So too when applied to religion. Unless, of course, one believes that religion is God-made and therefore infallible.

One of the most interesting observations I have heard in the wake of September 11 is that what truly separates Islam from the other two monotheistic traditions is that it has never had a reform movement. As opposed to Christianity's Protestant *reformation*, and the *reform* movement in Judaism (which gave rise to Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist Judaisms), Islam lacks the benefit of an institutionalized process of alternative modes of thought and behavior. No wonder it seems to be so estranged from the family of monotheistic traditions; it has nowhere else to turn.

*Reform* is not a dirty word. It is not a half-way house or an aberration, something that is temporal or passing. On the

contrary, if a religion is to be organic and retain its life-force, like any organism it must make adjustments to accommodate the changes in the flow of life—a kind of institutional homeostasis. Because if it does not it runs the risk of becoming obsolete. Or worse.

Do not think that the crisis in which we have been immersed these past four months is separate and distinct from the religious struggle going on inside Israel today. As Tom Friedman correctly identified it back in November, religious fundamentalism ensconced in political power is religious *totalitarianism*. And it destroys. In the same way that political totalitarianism turned our world on end in the 20th century, religious totalitarianism threatens to do the same for the hundred years that lie ahead. But if we are to learn anything from history it must be that totalitarianism destroys both internally as well as externally.

The truth be told, were it not for the *reformist* visionaries of 19th century German Jewry, the Jewish world today would look like Israel. A small percentage of devout practitioners surrounded by a sea of secularist, irreligious Jews. And let us not be naïve: Israel is the least healthy place in the free world for the nurturing and growth of Judaism. In literature they would call that tragic irony. I just call it tragic.

If we care about Israel, not merely as a haven for Jews but as a *Jewish* state, then we cannot remain indifferent to the struggle for religious freedom that forever seems to be on the verge of success. Religious pluralism may not weigh in as heavily these days when it comes to the question of Israel's struggle for survival, but it is no less important. For when all is said and done, it is not only Israel's *body* that is endangered but its *soul*. And if we believe—as do I—that Jews cannot endure without Judaism, then we cannot passively stand on the sideline as if it has nothing to do with us. It has *everything* to do with us.

Please register to vote in the World Zionist Elections. Help us to remind Israeli leadership that the cause of *reform* is the cause of Judaism itself.

## Voter Registration Deadline Extended For World Zionist Congress Election

To those of you who have registered thus far, THANK YOU!

To those of you who have not yet responded to our appeals to register, here's some "eh" news and some good news: (1) you are not alone (approximately 70% of the adult members of TNT have not yet registered; that's the "eh" news); and (2) the voter registration deadline has been extended to January 18, 2002.

This is a great opportunity for those of you in "the silent 70%" to be heard. Registration can be done either "hi-tech" i.e., register on-line in under five minutes at UAHC's secure website, <[www.votereformjudaism.com](http://www.votereformjudaism.com)>, or "low/no-tech" i.e., pick-up another registration form from the Temple, fill it in and return the completed form with your \$4 check for the registration fee to the Temple.

High or low, don't say no! The upcoming World Zionist Congress Election is extremely important for pluralism in Israel and Reform Jews everywhere. Our own Cantor Jessica Levitt has been selected for the ARZA slate of delegates. The extension gives us only one more month. So...please, please, **please REGISTER NOW!** Contact Bob David at 973-509-2308 or <[reeljazz@aol.com](mailto:reeljazz@aol.com)> with any questions.



## Celebrate *Shabbat Shirah* – the Sabbath of Song on Friday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

Please join Cantor Levitt and the Choir of Temple Ner Tamid as we celebrate *Shabbat Shirah* — the Sabbath of Song — by featuring the music of composer Max Helfman at *Erev Shabbat* services on Friday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

Max Helfman was born in Radzin Poland in 1901 and died in Los Angeles in 1963. He attended Mannes College of Music in New York and the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia where he studied conducting under Fritz Reiner. His superb talents could have carried him to the top of the classical music world, but he chose to follow the dictates of his heart and gave his vast creative ability to the world of Jewish Music.

His creative talents were exercised in three different and yet closely related areas. As a composer he enriched the treasury of liturgical music with artistry and authenticity. As a creative administrator, he was first the Music Director of the Brandeis Camp in Winterdale, Pennsylvania and later fulfilled the same role in the Brandeis Camp in California. He was also a founder of the School of Sacred Music in New York, and he created the School of Fine Art at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

He was a charismatic man. His greatest contribution was the fact that he raised up an entire generation of disciples who imbued mid-century Jewish music with beauty and emotional music. Maurice Levine, Emanuel Rosenberg, Gershon Kingsley and Jack Gottlieb are a few of the individuals whose memories of Helfman were a source of inspiration.

*Zecher Tzaddik Livracha*—the memory of this righteous man is a blessing. Come hear his beautiful, enchanting music and keep his blessing flowing forth in song.

from

**Cantor Jessica Levitt**

There are pieces of music you hear once and remember forever. Sometimes flipping through the dial, or watching a movie, you hear a melody that tugs on your heart and opens up your soul. These melodies come when least expected, but when you heard them you stop and simply listen, transfixed. This was my experience when I first heard, *Ashokan Farewell* played on PBS in Ken Burns series, *The Civil War*. I was folding laundry and half-listening to the show when suddenly a letter written by a soldier to his wife was read over the sad, lilting tune. I put down the clothes and I began to weep.

Jay Ungar calls *Ashokan Farewell*, "a Scottish lament written by a Jewish guy from the Bronx." He wrote the *Farewell* in 1982 as he was leaving the Ashokan camp in the Catskills. The camp is a unique community of musicians who celebrate the joy of living through music in an insulated environment. As he struggled with his own feelings of loss and longing, he wrote the tune in tears. The sadness and the pain in the piece are still palpable. In 1983, his band Fiddle Fever was recording their second album, *Waltz of the Wind*, and decided to put an arrangement of the tune on the album. A year later, Ken Burns heard the piece and was moved by it. He decided to use it as the theme for *The Civil War*. The original recording by Fiddle Fever can be heard in

the beginning of the series, and other arrangements and versions can be heard for a total of 59 minutes and 33 seconds in the 11 hour saga.

The music of Jay Ungar and Molly Mason is American music, pure and simple. It sounds like the place we live; grounded in tradition, but fresh and powerful. It can be lively, exuberant, thoughtful and mournful—but most importantly it is always true.

I later found out the name of the soldier whose words were read over the *Ashokan Farewell*. His name was Sullivan Ballou. He bid farewell to his wife Sarah in 1861. He wrote, "I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the government and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution. And I am willing—perfectly willing—to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this government, and to pay that debt."

### Say Hello to a Haunting Farewell

At this time of national and international crisis, music has to power to bring us together and heal us. I invite you to join me and the Ner Tamid community for a memorable and moving concert and Havdalah ceremony on January 12, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. Their music will get your toes tapping, tug at your heart, and open your soul.

**Thank you to the following people who have made pledges to our High Holiday Appeal between November 12, 2001 and December 12, 2001.**

Mark & Grace Baumgarten  
Mark & Stasha Cohen  
Alan & Jill Johnson  
Robert Moreines & Susan Levine

Michael & Judith Rogers  
Fred Schnitzer & Joanne Lyn Zippel  
George Spiegel & Dorothy Ziman

To date, 175 families have participated; additional contributions will be much appreciated and will be acknowledged next month.

from  
**Iris Schwartz** Education Director

Some of the seventh graders in my class would sooner subscribe to the one line belief, "What goes around comes around" rather than to be Jewish. It's a simple, to the point philosophy with no strings attached, no requirements or obligations to others for the devotee. Characteristic of teens is a preoccupation with themselves and with what their peers think about any given issue, almost to the exclusion of everything else. This philosophy makes sense then, at least from the perspective of a very "me centered" twelve year old—or does it?

When I was about fourteen years old one of the most famous stories of people's pre-occupation with themselves and non-involvement with others took place in Queens, New York, where I grew up. Kitty Genovese, a young woman who was returning home from work late one night, was brutally stalked, attacked and stabbed repeatedly in the middle of an apartment complex in Kew Gardens, New York. The assault took about thirty minutes. During this time Ms. Genovese repeatedly screamed for help. People even looked out of their windows and watched in horror as the crime continued. Not one person came to her aid. Not one person called the police until after her assailant left the scene. The witnesses were able to give a good enough description so that the police were able to apprehend the attacker. This was of no consequence to Kitty Genovese. She was dead.

Judaism teaches that though every life is precious, we are obligated to go outside of ourselves. Both our system of *mitzvot*, commandments and *middot*, Jewish values, teach us how to conduct our lives in relation to others. We have responsibilities beyond our own needs and wants.

Perhaps the most famous and insightful statement we are taught which reminds us of our duty to ourselves, our obligations to others, and also serves as a warning against procrastination is attributed to Hillel (Pirkei Avot 1:14):

*"If I am not for myself, who is for me?  
If I am only for myself, what am I?  
If not now, when?"*

Being a Jew requires a person to act. Being a Jew requires a person to do. Our entire faith and belief system, our code of ethics and morals must be translated into action in order to be meaningful.

At the very foundation of Judaism is the belief that every person is created in the image of God. We possess qualities that are Divine-like that set us apart from the animals. As such we have an obligation to act toward others in ways that befit the Divine holiness in each of us. Further, a person who doesn't hurt anyone is not necessarily an ethical person. Judaism understands an ethical person to be one who actively pursues the good in life.

Dennis Prager and Joseph Telushkin in [Eight Questions People Ask About Judaism](#) put it quite succinctly: "The entire Bible may be understood as a positive response to the question which Cain posed after murdering his brother Abel: 'Am I my brother's keeper?'"

Let's return now to those seventh graders who believe in a one line philosophy of life. Do they really believe that every good or bad thing that happens to people is the result of some prior behavior? What could Kitty Genovese possibly have done in her young life to merit such treatment? Let's pretend that at least some of the people in her apartment complex ascribed to our system of Jewish ethics and beliefs. How would the result have been different?

It's easy to shoot from the hip, especially as a teen. When confronted with real situations in the news glib responses and one liners just don't cut it. We have a rich tradition upon which to draw that has lasted centuries. Judaism is not just a one liner.

I'll be waiting for my class on Monday, newspaper in hand. It shouldn't be hard to make my case.

### Religious School Important Dates:

Friday, January 4

Grade 3 Shabbat Dinner and "Names" Program

Sunday, January 20

No School, Staff Conference Day

Monday, January 21

No School, Martin Luther King Day

*(President: continued from page 2)*

Following lunches with speakers (again for 6000), it was nearly time for Havdalah, which, by the way, was led in part by Rick Abrams. Sunday ended with a final plenary session where we passed resolutions that will be the basis of action, platforms and lobbying by the UAHC and its lobbying arm, the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. (Did you know that the Religious Action Center was the place where the Civil Rights Acts of the 1960's were drafted?)

As we staggered our way home by plane, train, or automobile, I think we all felt thrilled to have been a part of this, to have met committed Reform Jews from all over, to have networked, and to have learned of each other's problems and successes, to have found resources for our own needs. The best thing that we get from the UAHC is our knowledge that we are not alone, that we don't always have to reinvent the wheel because of everything provided and the people we get to know. We were proud to see that Temple Ner Tamid is in the vanguard in all sorts of areas from worship and music to religious education, even as we always try to get even better.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to learn, to pray and to provide information to all of you.

## Potpourri

### Annual Raffle

You should have all received the letter with our annual raffle tickets. I hope you are all as excited as we are about this year's prizes...Gift Certificates to Willowbrook Mall. They can be used at any store in the mall. The winners will be picked at the Sisterhood Board Meeting on February 4, 2002. Please feel free to join us there. If you have any questions or need additional raffle tickets, please contact Susan Fader at (973) 667-7373.

### Looking for New Ways to Network?

Looking for someone with a specific talent or profession? Searching for a dentist, doctor or lawyer? If you are interested in working on a products and services directory for our temple community, please contact Debbie Ostheimer at (973) 746-4315.

### Purim – Shalach Manot Basket Time

Everyone should have received their letters by now inviting all to partake in the annual tradition of sending Happy Wishes for Purim through Sisterhoods' *Shalach Manot* baskets. Remember: **Every Temple member, Teacher and Staff Member receives a basket from Sisterhood. Your participation just adds to the merriment.**

Once again we will be having our assembly line merry makers put together these yummy baskets of goodies. If you would like to help us please call Arlene Kraus at 661-3430. We will be working on Sunday February 10th in the afternoon. Any help is greatly appreciated in this endeavor and *remember that your participation directly benefits our Temple Community.*

### Thank you

Thanks so much for the wonderful office staff who help in any way they can and to Martha, Lila, Elinor and Rose who made a great team getting our mailing out.

### Sisterhood Tribute Fund

#### B'nai Mitzvah

Leila Goodman – Grandson Dylan  
Esther and Oscar Kettler – Grandson Dylan

#### Condolences

Shirley Blitzer – sister, Cecila Mansky

#### Mazal Tov

Jean Siegel and Peter Janulis – Commitment Ceremony

#### Get Well

Nat Daniels – good wishes for recovery

### Sisterhood Adult Education

Rabbi Kushner will enhance your knowledge of the Bible with an opportunity to discuss many issues. Come to the Temple Library on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. January 2, 9, 23 and 30.

### Anniversaries

*Mazal Tov* to the following couples who will celebrate their anniversaries in January and will be honored at Shabbat Service on January 25:

Atlas, John & Bonnie (Friedman )  
Beitler, Jed & Lori  
Cohen, Andrew I. & Karen A.  
DeSimone, Matthew & Patty L.  
Emmer, Daniel & Georgina  
Fishman, David & Kathryn B.  
Frekhtman, Gregory & Lidiya (Trunina )  
Goodman, Bruce & Laurie  
Horowitz, Richard & Diane  
Jones, Laurence & Susan

Korotkin, Arnold & Joyce  
Lev, Herbert & Ellen  
Nadison, Scott & Jill  
Noval, Stanley & Marjorie  
Strasser, Fred & Mary (Hickey )  
Strauss, Walter & Betty  
Surrell, Gerald & Joyce (Selter )  
Takal, Kim & Marilyn (White-Takal )  
Tennen, Steven & Jane  
Zalaznick, Steven & Eileen (Hoffman )



# Temple Ner Tamid

## February 2002

February 2002

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March 2002

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31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					February 1	2
					9:00am PreSchool 7:00pm Tot Shabbat 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am B'nai Mitzvah of Alexandra Furst & Molly Dinnerstein (Yitro) 5:30pm Gr.K/1 Havdalah Dinner
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Sisterhood Board	9:00am PreSchool 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NY 8:00pm Exec.Board	9:00am Bus for Senior Trip 9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat 8:00pm Sr.Yth Grp Service & Overnight	10:00am Shabbat Service 10:00am Casual Minyan
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am Grade 4 Family Ed. 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 6:00pm Yth Grp Purim Construction	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9	9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors 8:00pm Bd of Trustees	9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool	Confirmation Trip to Amsterdam 9:00am PreSchool 10:30am Bimah Time 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am Shabbat Service
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Confirmation Trip to Amsterdam	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL President's Day	9:00am PreSchool 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NJ 8:00pm Religious Affairs	9:00am PreSchool 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool 7:30pm Tikun Olam	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat 8:00pm Anniversary Shabbat	10:00am B'nai Mitzvah of Matthew Portnoy and Rachael Polton (Tetzaveh/Zakhor)
24	25	26	27	28		
8:30am Gr.K/1 Family Ed. Purim Program 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 8:45am Temple Tots 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:15am R.S. Grade 4-5 12:00pm PURIM CARNIVAL 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	NO RELIG.SCHOOL 9:00am PreSchool 7:00pm Megillah Reading	9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors 11:00am PURIM Megillah Reading	9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10	9:00am PreSchool		

# Temple Ner Tamid

## January 2002

January 2002

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February 2002

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		January 1, 02 New Year's Day	2 9:00am PreSchool resumes 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00am PreSchool	4 9:00am PreSchool 6:30pm Gr. 3 Shabbat Dinner 7:00pm Tot Shabbat 8:00pm Erev Shabbat 8:00pm 3rd Grade Shabbat	5 10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Adrienne Cohen (Shemot) 7:00pm Sr.Yth Group Havdalah/Bowling
6 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am What Is Islam? 12:00pm Hebrew Classes 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	7 9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Sisterhood Board	8 9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NY 8:00pm Bd of Trustees	9 9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10	10 9:00am PreSchool	11 9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	12 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Finger (Va-Era) 8:00pm Havdalah Cafe
13 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am What Is Islam? 12:00pm Hebrew Classes 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:00pm Sr. Yth Grp Coffee House	14 9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9	15 9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NJ 8:00pm Religious Affairs	16 9:00am PreSchool 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Gr. 7 Parents Workshop with Rabbi	17 9:00am PreSchool	18 9:00am PreSchool 10:30am Bimah Time 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	19 10:00am B'nai Mitzvah of Stuart Harwood & Julian Kramer (Bo) 10:00am Casual Minyan
20 No Religious School 9:00am R.S. Faculty Conference 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	21 Martin Luther King Day No School	22 9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors	23 9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 9:00am PreSchool	25 9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat 8:00pm Anniversary Shabbat	26 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Wiesner (Beshalach/Shirah) 5:30pm Gr. 2/3 Havdalah Dinner
27 8:30am Tu B'Shevat Program Session I 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 8:45am Temple Tots 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am Tu B'Shevat Program Session II 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	28 9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm Tu B'Shevat Program 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Rel.Sch.Comm	29 9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors	30 9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10	31 9:00am PreSchool		



from

**Joan Goodman** *Shoresh Director*

Just a quick update of things that have been happening at Shoresh the last several months.

As the cold weather approaches, the children at Shoresh are getting ready for indoor fun and learning. We welcomed the change of weather with a school trip in October to a local farm. There we enjoyed a hayride and each got to walk the fields to select a pumpkin. A tailgating party ended our wonderful school trip.

It has been several months since the first day of school and for most of us, we have finally adjusted into a regular schedule.

Our food drive for the Food Pantry in Bloomfield was a great success. The boys and girls collected several boxes of goods that children collected.

The "Mittens For Molly" program, which the children of

Shoresh started, turned out to be a great surprise. We collected mittens for Children In Foster Care of New Jersey (CASA).

Just as November has been quite busy, so too is December.

Hanukkah arrived early and with that, it was party time at Shoresh. Our parents were entertained with a Hanukkah sing-a-long and Ice Cream Party on December 12.

It was a wonderful event.

It is now January 2002 and we have returned from our winter recess. We are looking forward to the remaining school year with much enthusiasm. Plans for two open houses for Shoresh will be held during this month (look for flyers). Registration for in-house will be January 21 thru January 25. Starting January 29 we will open to the public. If you would like to visit Shoresh and learn more about the wonderful program, please call the Temple office (973-338-1500).

Wishing you all a safe and healthy New Year.

## Seniors

**L**ouis R. Druian Fellowship Circle, co-sponsored by Temple Ner Tamid, the Weiss Family Endowment Fund and Dorothy Druian in cooperation with the JCC Metropolitan NJ and the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section.

Meetings are held at Temple Ner Tamid, 936 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Current events discussion and/or video aerobics start at 11:15 a.m., followed by (bring your own) dairy lunch, and then the feature presentation at 12:15 p.m. Meetings conclude with a business meeting.

### January Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 1 ..... No Meeting – New Year's Day  
Tuesday, January 8 ..... Hirschhorn Scholar and Daily News Columnist Evan Weiner  
Tuesday, January 15 ..... Meeting...Program To Be Announced  
Tuesday, January 22 ..... Meeting...Program To Be Announced  
Tuesday, January 29 ..... Meeting...Program To Be Announced

### Upcoming Events/Trips

Wednesday, February 6 ..... Trip to JCC - West Orange for Performance of *Mame*

**Best wishes to all and a happy, healthy New Year.**

## So you wanna be a Moyel...

**Moyels:** If you are a licensed medical practitioner with some Jewish/Hebrew knowledge who currently performs infant circumcisions, and you would like to become a licensed Reform *mohal*, please contact Barbara Koppel at 908-232-3115 or <BZKoppel@aol.com> for information. The course will be held March 16, 17 and April 13, 14 at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills.

## Or maybe a Jewish educator?

Are you interested in expanding your Jewish knowledge at the highest levels, and possibly becoming a religious educator? Hebrew Union College is now offering a Master of Arts in Religious Education. This program is available as full-time or part-time. Please call Jo Kay at 212-824-2213 or email <jkay@huc.edu>. A brochure is on the bulletin board at the Temple.

## Thank You

The Congregation and the Board of Trustees want to thank last year's Confirmation Class for the magnificent pair of kiddush cups which now grace our Friday night services. And thanks too to Debbie Schwab Dorfman who helped in the selection. Come see them on any Friday night.

## Summer High School Program at Brandeis University

Brandeis University is offering a residential summer program for High School students from July 7 thru August 4. Students will explore Jewish studies, arts, humanities and social action.

Check the website at <www.brandeis.edu/genesis> or look at the brochure on the bulletin board at the Temple.

## TNT Scrip Program

Did you know that Temple Ner Tamid enables you to pay part of your temple dues while you shop for food? Here is how it works.

The Temple sells Scrip for our local supermarkets: Shoprite, Kings, Pathmark and A&P. They look and work like gift certificates. But for each \$100 worth of scrip you buy, you get \$5 credited towards your Temple dues.

Scrip is conveniently sold in three ways. On Sundays between first and second session of school, 10:30 - 10:45, Richard Segal sells scrip in the Temple lobby. You can also call Ricki Berger at the Temple office, 973-338-1501, or Richard Segal at 973-746-5271.

## Wanted:

Volunteers to deliver food to the needy homebound. As little as once would be a big help, Bloomfield only. Please call Connie at the Department of Human Services, 973-680-4017. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

## Thank You to the Hanukkah committee

Thank you to the hard-working members of the Hanukkah Happening committee who have done so much to make this year's party a success: Dan and Evan Anderson, Lydia Brown, Jackie Danberg, Tamima Friedman, Lee Greenberger and Randy Simon, Dede Horowicz, Nancy Kopilnick, Jodi Nussbaum, David Ogden, Susan Potters and Amy Winkelman. And for sharing their wisdom from Hanukkahs past, thanks to Dianna Chipkin, Arlene Kraus, Lori Price-Abrams, Lisa Reid, Sarah Segal and Lisa Westreich.

### TREE OF LIFE

Leaves on the Tree of Life in the Temple lobby can be purchased to celebrate any *simcha*.

Commemorate any life-affirming event, such as birth, b'nai mitzvah, confirmation, marriage or anniversary.

Leaves cost \$180; stones cost \$1000.

Contact the Temple office at 338-1500.

**Wendy L. Grossman, D.P.M.**

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## Yahrzeits

### Shabbat of 1/4/2002

Bernard Aron  
Maurice Barbe  
Robert Batkin  
Bess Berg  
Hyman Chavkin  
Mary S. Cohen  
David Convissor  
Shirley Dinsfriend  
Frances Ehrlich  
Nettie Fischer  
Abraham Flax  
Belle Forim  
Hannah E. Forim  
Lillian Ginsberg  
Sadye H. Gould  
Horace M. Guthman  
Irene A. Hodes  
Karyl Kramer  
Harry Lentz  
Jacob Levine  
Leonard Levitt  
Dr. Alex M. Lewis  
Paul Nagourney  
Felix Oppenheimer  
Alexander Pimes  
Mrs Barbara Schneider  
Dr. Jacob Schwartz  
Louis Schwartz  
Ralph Sesser  
Louis B. Shapiro  
Shirley Snyder  
Tessie Stier  
Ruth Stone  
Anna Sweetwood  
Solomon Ziff

### Shabbat of 1/11/2002

Frank Becker  
Sophie Berger  
Josephine Colie  
Sue Cooper  
Kate Crastnopol  
Ethel Dobrikin  
Muriel Eisenberg  
Charles Goldstein  
Charles Gruber  
Morton Hyman  
Molly Jankolovits  
Bella Kaiserman  
Ben Katz  
Eric Klein  
Benjamin Kolstein  
Ruth Kosson  
Mannis Lazarus  
Harvey Logan  
Clarence Maher  
Flora Maslin  
James Modesitt  
Robert Nazare  
Lillian Passner  
Leonard Reisner  
Murray Rosenberg  
Charles S. Rothenberg  
Kate Schwartz  
Yetta M. Sercus  
Rita Sheffrin  
Gary Sherman  
Kate Wasserman  
Janette Weinberg

### Shabbat of 1/18/2002

Else Berlin  
Joseph Bianco  
Jane Breslow  
Helene D. Cole  
Edna Fine  
Louis Fisch  
Joseph Frekhtman  
Harry Garman  
Pauline Gittelman  
Helen Goldberg  
Helen Gurtman  
Charles Halperin  
Carmen Huamani  
Gussie Jasik  
Harry Kaplan  
George Kauffman  
Dr. Charles Kimmel  
Elinor B. Morris  
Rose Nathanson  
Margaret Neuman  
Jerry Peters  
Isadore S. Pfeffer  
Rose S. Pollack  
Ronna Rose  
Ida Sapir  
Bernard J. Spingarn  
William Stein  
Alvin Taback

### Shabbat of 1/25/02

Robert Axelrod  
Rachel Behar  
Jules Beitler  
Sophie Daniels  
Norma Festa  
David Fisch  
Gussie Fishbain  
Beatrice S. Frank  
Irving A. Friedman, MD  
Ethel Gershon  
George Greene  
Paul Handler  
Wolf Hecker  
Alexander Hochman  
Phillip Holland  
Hyman Kantor  
Rose Lazar  
Clara Lipsky  
Anna Lishinsky  
Hyman Mandel  
Morris Margolius  
Louis Passner  
Natalie Pine  
Isador Protas  
Charles Rand  
Julius Rettig  
Ruth D. Rich  
Mae Sachs  
Sam Schnelwar  
Frieda H. Scott  
Israel Shapiro  
Anna Stone  
Sima Tsemakhova  
Florence H. Webster  
Sarah Weinberg  
Yetta Weiss  
Sol Weizelman  
Fannie Wolfson  
Meyer Yarmush  
Emanuel Zwerling



## From The Grotta Foundation...Yad b'yad

A lonely person is out there, waiting for the phone to ring  
It could make the difference in one's day and life  
It could be the single best thing you can do to make a difference  
It is more than a mitzvah. It is a heart-filling deed and one that makes a difference  
That lonely person can be a friend, neighbor, relative or even you.  
What an easy way to make a friend and be a friend  
Call the temple and ask for Sheila from *Yad B'Yad*  
Do it now—you'll be happy you did.

Sheila Eidelman



## *Sunday Mornings*

### *General Studies*

#### **BEGINNING WITH GENESIS**

#### **SPRING SEMESTER**

No text in Judaism has been more loved and debated than *Sefer Bereishit*—The Book of Genesis. Is it just a haphazard collection of great stories or is there a message in the whole? Are the stories factual or true (there is a difference)? What is a *myth* and why is it so important for modern Jews? These and many other questions will form the basis for an extended introduction to the Book of Genesis. Modern scholarship as well as ancient rabbinic commentary will be brought to bear onto our examination of this most beloved of sacred texts.

Instructor: Rabbi Steven Kushner

Sundays: 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

March 17, 24, 31; April 7 and 28; May 5

Fee: \$15



## *Hebrew Language Skills*

#### **HEBREW AIN'T THAT HARD**

#### **YEAR-LONG**

You CAN learn Hebrew! It's never too late to learn the *Alef-Bet*! The goal of this weekly class with Cantor Levitt is to introduce the letters and vowels of the Hebrew alphabet, but more importantly, to use that knowledge to decode our ancient words and their deeper meanings. We'll learn the building blocks of Hebrew in order to deepen our understanding of Jewish tradition, whether through the prayerbook, the Torah, or the mystical tradition. The Hebrew alphabet is more than letters on a page, it is the key to increasing your Jewish knowledge and enriching your own spirituality.

Instructor: Cantor Jessica Levitt

Sundays: 12 noon to 12:45 p.m.

December 2 and 16; January 6, 13;

March 3 and 17, 24, 31; April 7 and 28; May 5

Fee: \$60 [+ materials]

#### **MAKING SENSE OF HEBREW**

#### **YEAR-LONG**

Now that you can make the sounds, don't you want to know what they mean? Wouldn't it be nice to open the *siddur* (prayerbook, from the root [s-d-r] meaning 'order'), see a word and be able to comprehend its inner meaning? Rabbi Kushner will lead you onto the path of learning how to decipher Hebrew words. While not a comprehensive course in Hebrew grammar, you will develop the fundamentals necessary for basic translation. Fluency in the *Alef-Bet* required.

Instructor: Rabbi Steven Kushner

Sundays: 12 noon to 12:45 p.m.

December 2 and 16; January 6, 13;

March 3 and 17, 24, 31; April 7 and 28; May 5

Fee: \$60 [+ materials]

# Sunday Evening Lectures

March 10, 2002 / Olga Litvak

SHALOM ALEICHEM'S TEVYA & HIS DAUGHTERS:  
*The Making of the Modern Jewish Family*

Olga Litvak (PhD, Columbia, 1999), Assistant Professor, Princeton University and member of the Jewish Studies Faculty, is a specialist in modern Jewish history. She is currently completing a book on the role of literature in Russian-Jewish culture and beginning work on a study of Jewish artists and the making of modern Russian art.

Dr. Litvak is a dynamic lecturer and one of the nation's emerging great scholars on Jewish life and culture. Born in Russia, she is fluent in several languages and is a key member of the Jewish Studies Program at Princeton. Dr. Litvak suggests (but does not require) that attendees to the lecture see the movie "Fiddler on the Roof" and read the Tevya stories of Shalom Aleichem before the talk to refresh their memories.

Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m.  
Admission for all lectures is \$10 per person.

April 28, 2002 / Carol Ochs

FINDING GOD IN OUR OWN STORIES

Carol Ochs (Ph.D., Brandeis, 1968) is Director of the Graduate School and Adjunct Associate Professor of Jewish Religious Thought at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. Her research, writing, and teaching concentrate in the areas of Jewish spirituality, comparative religion, and Jewish feminism. In addition to teaching spiritual guidance, she serves as spiritual guide to rabbinic, cantorial, and Doctor of Ministry students. Prior to joining the faculty of HUC-JIR, she taught philosophy at Simmons College in Boston.

Among her many publications are *Our Lives as Torah: Finding God in Our Own Stories* (Wiley/Jossey-Bass, 2001), *Song of the Self: Biblical Spirituality and Human Holiness* (Trinity Press International, 1994), and *Behind the Sex of God: Toward a New Consciousness Transcending Matriarchy and Patriarchy* (Beacon Press, 1977).

# Weekday Daytime

## LUNCH WITH THE RABBI

Once again Rabbi Kushner returns on Tuesday afternoons to guide you on paths of deeper understanding of our sacred tradition, all while digesting your afternoon meal. This year we will study *The Way Into the Jewish Mystical Tradition*, authored by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. While not a comprehensive or exhaustive treatment of Jewish mysticism, this text affords the reader an easy and fluid opportunity to develop an expanded vocabulary of the concepts of *Kabbalah*, particularly within the context of Hasidism. You may emerge more confused than when you entered, but you'll be able to impress your friends with some extraordinary insights. Guaranteed to make lunchtime uplifting.

All sessions begin with lunch at 12 noon and study from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

- Lunch in New York at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 633 3rd Avenue, is held on the first available Tuesday of the month.

January 8, February 5, March 12, April 9, May 7, June 4

- Lunch in New Jersey at Temple Ner Tamid (in the library – dairy or *pareve* lunch only) is held on the second available Tuesday of the month.

January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 14, June 11

Fee: \$18 [The book is available at the Temple office for \$20]



**RESERVE THE DATES**

## A Thing or Tu' bout Shevat

Tu B'Shevat is a time for the family to get together and on Tu B'Shevat it is customary to partake generously of fruits and nuts, and in particular, the species of fruit for which the Land of Israel is blessed—wheat, barley, grapes, pomegranates, figs, olives, and dates.

Tu B'Shevat is the day when new sap starts to rise in the tree, when new life is starting to emerge. Even though we are still in the middle of winter and all looks bleak, cold and lifeless, Tu B'Shevat comes—a day of new life with the promise of rejuvenation.

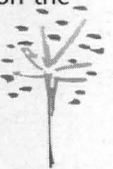
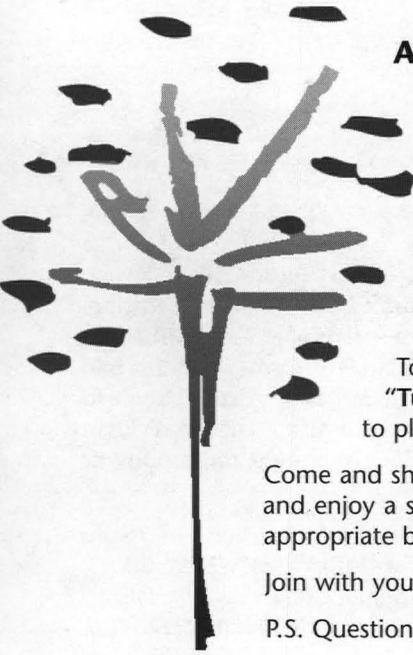
Will our dreams of growth and spiritual excellence "bear fruit", or won't they?

Today, Tu B'Shevat is celebrated in numerous ways: By planting trees, by eating fruit, by having a "Tu B'Shevat Seder," by doing some special project for the environment, or by collecting funds to plant trees in Israel.

Come and share in a planting project, explore various messages that are represented by this holiday, sing and enjoy a simple but meaningful, "seder", eating fruits and nuts in order of importance! (Based on the appropriate blessings.)

Join with your temple "family" to celebrate **Sunday, January 27, 2002** at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

P.S. Questions or desire to be more involved: call Arlene Linetzky at 973-783-5420

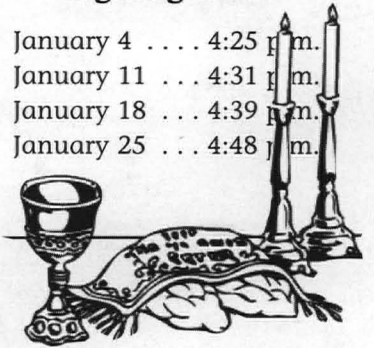


Barbara Shapiro Furst wishes to extend an invitation to all members of the congregation to join in celebrating Alexandra being called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 2. Babysitting will be available.

Please join us following the service for a kiddush luncheon at the Synagogue.

### January Candle Lighting Times

January 4 . . . . 4:25 p.m.  
January 11 . . . 4:31 p.m.  
January 18 . . . 4:39 p.m.  
January 25 . . . 4:48 p.m.

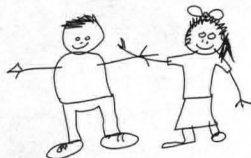


## SHORESH PRESCHOOL

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