

# Temple Topics

may 2002 ☆ iyar — sivan 5762

from

**Rabbi Steven Kushner**

## What is SEI?

One of the lines of which I am most proud of composing is to be found in our membership brochure: "This is not the kind of Temple you swore you would never step foot in again." Ner Tamid was not supposed to be just another Temple. We tried to eliminate all those forgettable elements of the synagogues and shuls in which we grew up. And to some extent we have succeeded. Just look at us. Our Membership Directory (which will finally be available for pick-up in the Temple office a year and a half late) continues to expand at an unprecedented rate. We must be doing something right.

But, I confess, there is so much more this community of ours could be. We could do a better job of relating to each other. We could do a better job of preparing our

children to be authentic Jews. We could do a better job of reconnecting ourselves to God and a life of holiness. The truth be told, there ought never be a time when we can say, "We're there." Transformation is the integral component of all organic being. Or as I responded to the congregant who asked me some twenty years ago if I would ever get tired of changing things and just hold on to the status quo, "No."

My vision of Temple Ner Tamid is a synagogue that thinks and operates outside the box. The phrase "...but we never did it that way before" has been outlawed at all board meetings since our inception in 1980. The synagogue, like the religion it houses, is the creation of the Jewish people. We made it. We can change it.

One area where I feel we have substantial room for growth is the way we learn. This is not an indictment of our Religious School or *Shoresh* (our Preschool) or our Adult Education program. They are all at the very core of our success as a congregation. Let's face it, our education program is arguably our biggest draw. Yet we still do things the old-fashioned way. Namely, we have a religious school, a preschool and an adult education program. We segment and divide our membership. We compartmentalize and isolate.

On more than one occasion Iris Schwartz (our Religious School Director) and I have wondered if supplemental religious school education is the best way to fashion future generations of Jews. Similarly, the Reform Movement in Judaism is trying to look at the synagogue in a whole new way, as a congregation of learners. A place where everyone is a learner and where Jewish growth is the normative value. The truth is, the entire world of Jewish education is exploring new ways to teach and to learn. After all, Torah should bring us together, not separate us from each other.

(continued on page 11)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, May 16 from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
Tikkun Leil Shavuot: A Night of Standing Together at Sinai (Dairy Snacks provided)

Friday, May 17 from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.  
Shavuot Early Morning Services

Friday, May 17 at 8 p.m.  
Confirmation Ceremony at Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, May 18 at 10 a.m.  
Alexa Bass-Brown becomes Bat Mitzvah.  
Yizkor will be recited.

## SHABBAT AT NER TAMID

### Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat services every Friday at 8 p.m.  
Shabbat services every Saturday at 10 a.m.

May 3 at 7 p.m.: Tot Shabbat

May 11 at 10 a.m.: Casual Minyan

May 17 at 8 p.m.: Confirmation Ceremony

May 31: Anniversary Shabbat

Babysitting is available every Friday night and the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

### B'nai Mitzvah

May 4: Jake Goldstein

May 11: Jordan Edelstein

May 18: Alexa Bass-Brown

May 25: Erik Pesner

### Nishmat & Nova

Join us on the second Saturday of every month when we hold our casual minyan. We read the entire torah portion, engage in a lively and spirited discussion, and finish with a light Kiddush lunch. Babysitting is available. Join us May 11 at 10 a.m.

Celebrate with the  
Confirmation Class  
of 2002 ☆ 5762

*Jesse Derek Eisenberg*

*Shari Lee Genser*

*Emily Margaret Goodman*

*Chloe Messer Gutelle*

*Jennifer Gwen Kramer*

*Jessica Harriet Lee*

*Daniel Isaac Leeds*

*Abigail Sybil O'Reilly*

*Alex Geoffrey Peroff*

*Isaac Stephen Shapiro*

*Jason Adam Stahl*

*Joanna Carly Stein*

*David Sidney Weingarten*

Erev Shabbat, Friday, May 17 at 8 p.m.

## 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  
AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Member UAHF

### **Rabbi**

Steven Kushner

### **Cantor**

Jessica Levitt

### **Director of Education**

Iris Schwartz

### **Preschool Director**

Joan Goodman

### **Youth Director**

Sharon Rappaport

### **Executive Director**

Renee Drell

### **President**

Marge Grayson

### **VP for Planning & Development**

David Abramson

### **VP Finance**

Mark Perwien

### **VP Religious Affairs**

Woody Eisenberg

### **VP Membership**

Sonia Rapaport

### **VP House & Administration**

Robert Rich

### **VP Education**

Lisa Berlin

### **VP Early Childhood**

Sharon Rosen

### **Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

Rochelle Sandler

### **Secretary**

Belinda Plutz

### **Sisterhood Liaison**

Sonia Rapaport

### **Seniors Co-Presidents**

Herman Glucoft

Inge Strauss

### **Youth Group President**

Alexandra Klein

### **Temple Topics Staff**

Barbara Shapiro Furst

Elinor Neifeld

*from*

**Marge Grayson** *President*

As always, this May is chock full of activities at the Temple. I want to encourage you to attend many of them.

We start off with **Havdylan Café II** on Saturday, May 4th at 8 p.m. If you've attended before, I know you won't want to miss it; and if you've missed before, this is your opportunity to hear our talented congregants, sing along, dance in the aisles, and nosh!

On Friday, May 10th, we honor the Sisterhood at Sisterhood Shabbat. The following week we observe Tikkun Leil Shavuot on May 16th and **Confirmation** and Shavuot Services on May 17th. You have to love a religion that has a cheesecake holiday (the traditional food for Shavuot)!

Sunday, May 19th is both Religious School and Temple-wide Mitzvah Day. At noon, there will be a casual brunch, followed by our **Congregational Meeting** at 12:30 p.m. Please come; this is an important moment in our congregational life. We vote on next year's officers and trustees, approve the budget, and review where we are and where we are going.

I also want to bring you up-to-date on our **Campaign for Kehilla** (community). While I will have more details at the Congregational Meeting, I am delighted to tell you that as I write this nearly \$1,000,000 has been pledged, a substantial portion of which has already been contributed. By the time you read this, many of you will have been contacted to participate. Please do so; it means a great deal to have most of the congregation support our plans for the future.

As my presidency winds down, I am so appreciative to all the people who have worked with me and who make this synagogue so vibrant. After three years as Temple president, I know that this is one of the best synagogues there is, and we are always trying to make it better. Please join with the leadership in moving us ahead. And please reserve Friday June 7th at 8 p.m. for **Installation Shabbat** when you can hear our new president, Bob Adler, and honor all of our officers and trustees, both incoming and outgoing.

We need a few good people who would like to **touch the future of the Jewish people**. Have you ever considered teaching religious school? Do you know anyone who might be a good teacher? We need religious school teachers for September. We welcome both experienced and new teachers. A community based teacher training program is available for those new to the field. Please contact Iris Schwartz at the temple for information.

# April 15 Solidarity Rally in Washington Round-Up

There is a photo on my living room wall of a young boy in a *kipah* staring across a blockaded bridge. You can only see the back of his head. It is a bright, sunny day. He is looking across the metal bridge towards the clear, clean silhouette of a soldier with a machine gun.

The little boy is Israeli. The soldier is Jordanian. I took the photo in the spring of 1995. Our bus was returning to Jerusalem from a trip to the Golan Heights. We decided to stop at the new Peace Bridge over the river Jordan.

from

**Cantor Jessica Levitt**

The bridge was going to open the following day — a physical sign of clear diplomatic progress. Optimism was in the air.

I haven't noticed this photo much since I put it up about two years ago. But a few weeks ago, lying on my couch watching the news of the latest attack on our brothers and sisters in Israel, I saw the photo as if it were for the first time. Suddenly, rather than seeing the bridge which linked the two figures, my eye was drawn to the barricade and to the gun.

In the mid-90's, a time of peace seemed close at hand. Israel was normalizing relations with some of her neighbors such as Jordan. There was no *intifada* or *jihād*. Tourists from around the world flocked to their respective holy places. Ben Yehuda Street was bustling at night, and Mahane Yehuda market was packed during the day. There were bombings and an occasional machine-gun attack, but for the most part, things were quiet.

(continued on page 11)

## Journal Entry from Abi Katznelson

4/16/02

Dear Journal,

Yesterday, I did something which will probably stay with me for the rest of my life. It is not under the list of my thirteen mitzvot but I felt that it was too important not to write about.

As you might have heard (it was all over the news), there was to be a rally in Washington on April 15, 2002. Although those people in charge of coordinating the event had to have planned it in less than a week's time, it was supposed to have a huge outcome. At first, I wondered if the response to this was really going to be that great. But every one I talked to, seemed to know something about it. Everyone was excited about it. Finally, about two days before the trip, our Temple announced that we did not have enough room to fit in any more people despite the fact that so many more still wanted to be there.

This is when I first got the feeling that huge was going to be much too small a word to describe the rally. We got to the stadium without much of a wait. Considering the number of busses coming in, we were among the first. We were quickly directed into a Metro station. While we waited for the train to come, a few groups started singing "*Hiney Matov*". Our bus joined in. For some reason, it made me feel a little more at ease. Cantor Levitt made a beautiful harmony and I realized that no matter how young or old or different we all were, we had all probably heard this very song sung in their own Temples.

We got to the actual entrance at around 12:30 and were pushed and shoved through security. Finally there was

(continued on page 12)

## TNT & Temple Shalom fill a bus & head to Washington DC



### Attending the rally from TNT (but not necessarily in the picture)

David, Tamara, Jillian & Josh Abramson, Ellen Baskin, Leonard & Janis Brownstein, Miriam Chilton, Barbara Furst, Dot Glazer, Linda Gottfried, Cliff Kahn, Anna & Abi Katznelson, Meryl Asher-Kramer, Rabbi Steven Kushner & Aviva, Mary, Veronica, Carina & Jessica Lee, Beryl Leffler, Cantor Jessica Levitt, Phyllis Lowenthal, Ed & Aaron Miller, Robert Moreines, Debby & Harvey Morginstin, Lois Rosenkrantz



About 12 years ago my parents retired to a small town in North Carolina with a tiny Jewish community. Every time we speak they kvetch about their shul. The "old timers" always feel that they know best, they say to me repeatedly. I wonder silently what "old timers" they are referring to since my mom is 75 and my dad will be 81 this month. Their congregation is building a brand new facility. My parents worry about the wisdom of such an endeavor. "After all," they say, "we have no rabbi and barely any children to educate." I tell them that at Ner Tamid things are quite the opposite. We are bursting at the seams. In fact, we are once again involved in a campaign to add more space to our building. They express amazement at the number of students in our religious school.

from  
**Iris Schwartz** Education Director

We begin to talk about the temple community in which I grew up, Temple Beth El in Laurelton, Queens. We all have fond memories of those many years of membership there. And, indeed, we still have strong connections to the extended Temple Beth El family even though the synagogue disbanded over 25 years ago.

One of the strengths of the Temple Beth El community was its celebration of Confirmation. I think about my own Confirmation each year as we approach the holiday of Shavuot. When I grew up, Confirmation was a community wide celebration. It was a real coming of age and an affirmation of a teenager's commitment to Judaism and to our people. It always seemed that the entire congregation turned out for the service, and that everyone was invited to the multiple parties that followed. It was a real "happening."

Confirmation itself was indeed a magical experience. Wearing white robes, we walked down the aisle holding beautiful flowers, our faces all aglow. We led the service and participated in the traditional reading of the Ten Commandments. Each class made some kind of special presentation. Unfortunately, since the Cantor's daughter was in my class he insisted that our offering be a cantata. Singing is not a strength of mine. I did my best, complaining all the way of course.

What I remember about that evening was the pride I

felt in my accomplishment, the joy on my parents' faces, and the love that emanated from our congregation. Confirmation was an important Jewish lifecycle milestone. It really meant something in my temple.

Today Confirmation generally means that a sixteen year old made an important Jewish choice three years before to continue learning on a regular basis. I do not use the word choice lightly. It has been my experience that rather than to expect children to continue on through Confirmation as was my experience, many parents actually leave this important decision up to their 13 year old child. This always astounds me. What other decision of this magnitude do parents leave to 13 year olds? Why in most families is the ability to read a few lines from the Torah seen as an appropriate end to a Jewish education? By giving our children this most important choice we impart a clear message about the value of Judaism in our lives.

Jewish education during the high school years has more of an impact on our teens than all of the previous years of religious school combined. They practice the art of choosing Jewishly as they discuss the ethical and moral issues that will continue to confront them in the years ahead. As our youngsters begin to frame their lives as adults, Jewish education provides a light for the difficult path ahead. The youngsters who become Confirmed decide to take the notion of lifelong Jewish learning seriously. They decide that seeing the world through Jewish eyes is valuable.

Just yesterday I asked my mom why so many kids at Temple Beth El years ago became Confirmed. What was the magic formula, what was the reason for so many going beyond B'nai Mitzvah? Without skipping a beat she said, "We all wanted every child in our community to have a Jewish education. It was important." I think at least some of those "old timers" do have a lesson or two that they can teach us. The question is, will we take them seriously?

Please join our Temple Ner Tamid community for Shavuot and Confirmation services which take place on Friday, May 17th. Your presence will send a message not only to your own children, but to those who will be affirming their faith in Judaism that evening. As I did long ago, let them also experience the pride of accomplishment, see the joy on their parents' faces and feel the love of community surround them. Every child who becomes Confirmed deserves nothing less.

## Religious School Important Dates:

Friday May 3 through Monday May 6 . . . . Grade 9 L'Taken Social Action Seminar in Washington, D.C.  
Wednesday, May 15 . . . . . Last class for grades 11/12  
Sunday, May 19 . . . . . Mitzvah Day and last day of Sunday classes  
Monday, May 20 . . . . . Last class for grades 6 through 9



from  
**Sisterhood** Susan Fader

## Important Sisterhood Dates

**Friday May 10 — Sisterhood Shabbat.** Please plan to join us for this annual Shabbat event. We have two wonderful speakers for the evening...

Our first speaker will be **Joan Gordon, Executive Director of US/Israel Women to Women** an organization that is dedicated to creating and strengthening successful relationships between women in Israel and the US. Their four target areas of concern are economic development, health care, anti-violence measures and political advocacy and representation. **Yudith Oppenheimer, the director of Kol Ha Isha**, the only multi-cultural feminist center in Jerusalem will also speak. Among the center's activities are that it houses a women's art gallery, a Community school for women and runs projects for empowerment of women.

**Sunday June 9 – Rummage Sale.** Doing spring-cleaning? Don't forget to put your treasures aside for our rummage sale. You can bring them to the temple the week before the sale.

**Monday June 10 – Our Annual Donor Dinner.** The dinner will be held once again at the wonderful **Toscana Ristorante** in Montclair. Save the date and save your appetite for this delectable evening. Sisterhood members, look for your invite in the mail!

## Potpourri

**'Tis the season to be busy....** Looking to send a special message to someone dear in honor of a wedding, graduation, Bar Mitzvah, confirmation, etc? Please contact Berna Berger at (973) 743-7212 to send a Tribute Card for you with a lovely personal note. The cost is only \$2.00 and donor credit is \$1.00 per card.

The Sisterhood is collecting cleaning supplies and household items for the **domestic violence safe house**. Household items such as lightly used dishes, towels, sheets and small appliances will be greatly appreciated in addition to cleaning supplies. These items will be given to women that have escaped from situations involving domestic violence to help them set up their own homes. Items can be dropped off at the **Judaica Shop**.

## Sisterhood Tribute Fund

### Engagements

Evelyn and Manuel Stier – Granddaughter Lynn's engagement

Susan and Lanny Katz – Josh's engagement

### Marriage

Rose Kron – Grandson Jason's wedding

### Congratulations

Rabbi Steven Kushner – Doctor of Divinity

### Refuah Shleimah A Quick and Speedy Recovery

Herman Borofsky

Jerry Weiser

### Sisterhood Adult Education

Rabbi Kushner will spark your imagination and lead you into areas of discussion that you never thought of before. Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the library. Dates: 5/1, 5/8, 5/15

## Anniversaries

**Mazal Tov** to the following couples who will celebrate their anniversaries in May and will be honored at Erev Shabbat Service on May 31:

Benjamin & Liza Asher  
William & Sherry Brown  
Andy & Nancy Clayman  
Marino & Wanda Dobrich  
Philip & Regina Elberg  
Anthony & Bernice Flanders  
Michael Frank & Susan Helman  
David Futterman & Marnie Stetson  
Jeremy Gluck & Jan Singer  
Eugene Goldberg & Amy Lazarus  
Alfred & Sylvia Green  
Steven Guarnaccia & Susan Hochbaum

Aaron & Rita Heller  
Peter & Dede Horowicz  
Arthur & Ruth Josephson  
Andrew & Jane Kessler  
David & Amparo Koster  
Steven & Mary Lee  
Wendell C. & Ellen Maddrey  
Stephen McLean & Judith Berkowitz  
Arthur & Jodi Meisler  
Jeffrey & Mary K. Mellow  
Paolo Pepe & Melissa Katz  
Joseph & Susan Nucci  
Mark & Jody Rakov

Michael Rice & Anne Gorfinkel  
Ken & Renee Rivlin  
Allan & Julie Ross  
Kenneth & Deborah Schapiro  
Stephen Schneider & Nancy Haven  
Fred & Joanne L. Schnitzer  
Richard Segal & Elizabeth Peters  
Geoffrey & Sheri Silverstein  
Timothy Spitzer & Elizabeth Hoffman  
James & Cora Vest  
Josh & Judy Weston  
Laurence & Lisa Westreich  
Timothy Wyatt & Susan Korn

## 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.

### May/June Calendar of Events

Wednesday, May 1: .....Trip to JCC/West Orange for New Jersey Film Festival  
 Tuesday, May 7: .....Meeting: Hirschhorn Scholar Ellen Kurtz, Speaker  
 Tuesday, May 14: .....Meeting: Speaker Marge Grayson plus Computers 101  
 Tuesday, May 21: .....Meeting: Program TBD  
 Tuesday, May 29: .....Meeting: Program TBD  
 Tuesday, June 4: .....No Meeting  
 Friday, June 7: .....Trip to Sculpture Gardens, Hamilton, NJ  
 Tuesday, June 11: .....End of Year Luncheon

*Grotta Foundation*

IF YOU'RE FEELING SAD AND LONELY  
 THERE'S A MESSAGE I CAN SEND YOU  
 YOU CAN HAVE A WONDERFUL BUDDY  
 WHO WILL BE SO KIND AND TRUE, SO

CALL ME—DON'T BE AFRAID. YOU CAN CALL ME  
 MAYBE IT'S LATE, BUT JUST CALL ME. CALL ME AND  
 I'LL MAKE IT SO.

IF THE PHONE JUST NEVER RINGS AND  
 YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE TO TALK TO  
 WE'RE A GROUP WHO MAKES IT HAPPEN  
 FRIENDSHIPS HERE JUST GROW AND GROW, SO

CALL ME—DON'T BE AFRAID. YOU CAN CALL ME  
 MAYBE IT'S LATE, BUT JUST CALL ME. CALL ME AND  
 I'LL MAKE IT SO.

BE A BUDDY. IT'S SO WORTHWHILE.  
 CALL TODAY... SHEILA EIDELMAN, 973-338-1500

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

**PODIATRIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

905 Broad Street  
 Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003

**(973) 566-0811**



*Photography to make  
 memories last a lifetime...*

BAR/BAT MITZVAH  
 WEDDINGS  
 SPECIAL OCCASION



**GABELLI  
 STUDIO**

CONTACT JEFF WOLFSON,  
 DIRECTOR OF  
 IMAGING AND VIDEO

Member of the Photo  
 Network

250 POMPTON AVENUE, VERONA, NJ • 973-239-2420

## Please join us at Temple Ner Tamid for *Shavuot* this year!

**Thursday, May 16 at 8:00--11:30 p.m.** Tikkun Leil Shavuot: A Night of Standing Together at Sinai (Dairy Snacks are provided)

**Friday, May 17 at 7:00--8:00 a.m.** Shavuot Early Morning Shacharit (Morning Services) Come to our early services, hear the 10 Commandments read. You can even make an early bus into NYC along Broad Street. Breakfast will be available for those staying.

**Friday, May 17 at 8:00 p.m.** Confirmation Ceremony at Kabbalat Shabbat

**Saturday, May 18, at 10:00 a.m.** Alexa Bass-Brown becomes Bat Mitzvah. Yizkor will be recited.

If you are able to bring your children please do so to the Early Morning Shacharit, or our Confirmation Ceremony. Just as we are told that every generation must feel as if they were freed from Egypt, so too, every generation must feel that it has entered into a covenant with God. Every generation must feel that God's words were spoken to them no less than to earlier generations

## The Festival of Shavuot - Hag Matan Torah May 17 - 18, 2002

By Steven H. Nagourney and Richard Abrams

Temple Ner Tamid Religious Affairs Committee



**Lamed:** to instruct, teach, learn; course, direction; to order, point

When the Torah wishes to inform us of the 'historical' reason for a holiday, it certainly knows how to do so. Take for example two of the pilgrimage holidays – Pesach: The Spring Festival, End of winter/ start of spring; From such time as you begin to put the sickle to the corn (Deuteronomy, 16:9), and Sukkot, Feast of Ingathering, End of summer/ start of autumn; Labors from the field when you have gathered in your (Exodus, 23: 16), After you have gathered in your corn and your wine (Deuteron. 16:1). Even though these holidays are also presented from their 'agricultural' perspective, the Torah informs us of their historical perspectives as well (see Exodus 12:17, 13:3 etc. and Leviticus 23:42-43). Therefore, it is simply baffling that the Torah presents Shavuot (which commemorates the giving of the Torah) only from its agricultural aspect, without mentioning even a word about its connection to events of *Matan Torah* – “The giving of the Torah” (through the intermediary of Moses) wherein the Children of Israel willingly and consciously accepted a system of laws that make up the Torah, the infrastructure for their spiritual and moral existence. Shavuot is also the festival that expresses the close connection with the daily life of the people who, on entering Eretz Yisraeil (the nation of Israel) became farmers, cultivating the soil, and completely associated with all aspects of nature, its seasons and its manifestations. (The discussion in the Torah about Shavuot is found in Vayikra 33:15-22.) Shavuot, perhaps more than any other festival, embodies the extraordinary integration of the spiritual-religious side and the earthly-material side of the Jewish people.

Since the Israelites received the Torah on Shavuot, the festival is also called *Hag Matan Torah* (the Festival of the Giving of the Law). Our Sages emphasize that only when they received the Ten Commandments did the Israelites become a free people. Our forefathers received the Torah of their free will and with full agreement (Exodus, 24: 7). According to tradition the Torah was given to Israel in the year 2448 of the Creation of the world.

Let's take a closer look at how the Torah records the date of *Matan Torah*. When the Torah wishes to inform us of the precise date of a certain event, it certainly knows how to do so. Once again, take for example Pesach and *Yetziat Mitzraim* (the Exodus). The Torah mentions not only the events, but their precise dates as well! However, in regard to *Matan Torah*, the Torah is much more ambiguous. Indeed we are told that *B'nei Yisraeil* arrive at Mount Sinai in the third month (Sivan), but we are not told on what day of the month they arrived:



"In the third month of Bnei Yisraeil's departure from the Egypt, on this day, they came to the wilderness of Sinai." (Exodus 19:1) Not only is the phrase "on this day" ambiguous, it is quite difficult to determine how many days actually transpire between their arrival at Mount Sinai and *Matan Torah*. Even if we assume that *Bnei Yisraeil* arrived on the first day of the month the lack of a clear chronology in the subsequent events still makes it impossible to pinpoint that date.

We know that Moses goes up and down the mountain several times, and that three days are required to prepare for that special occasion, but we never told how many days elapse in the interim. In the *Mechilta*, (a book of ancient midrashim) Chazal (mnemonic for *Chachamaynu Zichronom Livrach* - our wise men) calculates that the Torah was given on either the sixth or seventh of Sivan, yet the fact remains that the Torah prefers to obscure the precise date of this event.

Of course, the number seven (*sheva*) is a significant "Jewish" number, with Biblical, Talmudic and Midrashic sources. Shavuot is celebrated seven weeks after Pesach. Jewish mourners sit "*Shiva*" (seven days) after the death of a close relative. There are seven days in the week, and tradition refers to seven planets. The seventh year in every cycle of seven years is the Shemitta year, in which the land must rest. The Jubilee is the year that concludes seven cycles of Shemitta years, and *Masekhet Shevi'it* is the Tractate in the Mishnah in the Order of *Zera'im* that deals with the laws of Shemitta.



Thus, we really have a double question. Not only is it strange that Torah makes no connection between Shavuot and *Matan Torah*; it doesn't even tell us when *Matan Torah* took place! Again, the question remains - why? The Torah does indicate the date of Shavuot, since it is fixed as the fiftieth day of the Omer (Leviticus 23:16), and always falls on the sixth of Sivan. Still, to answer this question, we must consider a fundamental difference between two of the greatest events in our people's history: *Yetziat Mitzraim* and *Matan Torah*.

In the Torah, there are numerous mitzvot through which we commemorate *Yetziat Mitzraim* (Exodus), both on the anniversary of the Exodus (e.g. eating matzah, telling of the story of the Exodus at Pesach etc.), and even all year round (e.g. on Shabbat [during the Kiddush over the wine], and in the daily recital of the *Shema* etc.), all of which the Torah relates to the Exodus. There is not one specific mitzvah whose explicit purpose is to commemorate the events of *Matan Torah*. The Book of Deuteronomy does require that we not forget the events that transpired at Mount Sinai, but it does not command us to perform any specific positive mitzvah in order that we not forget! So, why then does the Torah call upon us to commemorate these two events in such dramatically different ways? One could suggest that the Torah is sending an implicit message-that *Matan Torah* is not a historically bound event; because every day we must feel as though the Torah has just been given. This concept is reflected in the Midrash Rabbah, Soncino Press, on XIX:

"... it should have been written: 'On that day.' Why does the pasuk say: 'On this day?' This comes to teach us that the words of the Torah should be considered new to you - as though they were given today!" In other words, we should not view *Matan Torah* as a one-time event; rather, every generation must feel as though they have just entered into a covenant with God. Every generation must feel that God's words were spoken to them no less than to earlier generations.



### Tikun Leil Shavuot - a Night of Vigil and Study for Shavuot

To celebrate the anniversary of *Matan Torah* as a single moment in our history could diminish from that meta-historical dimension. But without a commemorative mitzvah, how is *Matan Torah* to be perpetuated?

In contrast to *Matan Torah*, there is no need to re-live the experience of *Yetziat Mitzrayim*; rather it is important that we remember that event. Even if we must act as though we went out of Egypt on the seder night - "*b'chol dor v'dor chayav adam lir'ot atzmo k'ilu...*"), it is in order that we put ourselves in the proper frame of mind to praise God and thank Adonai for our redemption. *Yetziat Mitzrayim* was, and should remain, a one-time event in our history - our

national birth. As such, it needs to be commemorated. *Matan Torah* is totally different! It is an event that must be constantly re-lived, not just remembered, for it is the essence of our daily existence as Jews.

So is it wrong to commemorate *Matan Torah* on Shavuot? Was it a 'mistake' connecting a 'purely agricultural' holiday with the historical event of *Matan Torah*? Of course not! Is it possible that the most important event in our national history not be commemorated on its yearly anniversary? The Bible emphasizes one perspective, the inherent danger of commemorating this event, while tradition balances this message by emphasizing the other perspective, the historical significance of remembering that day, by re-living that event. Therefore, just like on "*leil ha'seder*" (Passover eve) we spend the entire evening 're-telling' the story of *Yetziat Mitzrayim*, on "*leil Shavuot*," we spend the entire evening engrossed in the study of Torah, 're-living' the experience of standing at Sinai (*Ma'amad Har Sinai*)

There are many customs associated with Shavuot. One prevalent custom is that of staying up all night on the first night of Shavuot and learning Torah. Our people have done this custom because the Midrash relates that the Israelites were neglectful in receiving the Torah, since they slept on the night preceding the giving of the Torah and Moses had to awake them frequently. In order to "repair" this fault in our ancestors' reception of the Torah, we stay up all night, the anniversary of the night our forefathers slept, learning the Torah, which they had to be awakened to receive. At Ner Tamid we have tradition of celebrating in this way with beautiful ceremony including the reading of the Ten Commandments in front of the ha-kodesh.

Another custom that we have is to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. Of the many reasons give for this, one reason for eating dairy is so that we remember the situation our ancestors were in immediately after receiving the Torah, on the anniversary of our receiving the Torah. The Mishna B'rura tells us that right after Bnei Yisrael received the Torah, they came away from Har Sinai, and were faced with a quandary: What should they eat? They had just learned that there were laws of keeping Kosher, which they had not followed before, such as the law that an animal is to be slaughtered and checked for blemishes in a certain way. As they did not know the laws well, dairy foods were the only option. Also, as all the food they had cooked previously was not "Kosher," the pots and other cooking utensils could not be used right away, as they had to be "Kashered." Therefore, as their only choice of food at the time was dairy, we eat dairy as well to remember the situation of our ancestors at the time they received the Torah.

# Temple Ner Tamid

## June 2002

June 2002							July 2002						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						June 1 10:00am B'nai Mitzvah of Robert Resnick & Harry Raymond (Beha'alot'kha)
2 3:00pm Concert - Jane Olian Soprano	3 9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Sisterhood Board	4 9:00am PreSchool 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NY 8:00pm Exec.Board	5 9:00am PreSchool	6 9:00am PreSchool	7 9:00am Shoresh 4yr old Graduation 8:00pm Installation Shabbat	8 10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Devorah Kass (Shelach Lecha) 10:00am Casual Minyan 5:30pm Rummage setup
9 9:00am Rummage Sale	10 6:30pm Sisterhood Donor(out)	11 11:00am Seniors End of Year Luncheon 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NJ 8:00pm Religious Affairs	12	13	14 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	15 10:00am B'nai Mitzvah of Evan Fishman and Andrew Citron (Korach) 8:00pm NJRB Havdalah Cafe
16 Father's Day	17 8:00pm Sisterhood Meeting	18 8:00pm Bd of Trustees	19	20	21 8:00pm Choir Sings 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	22 12:00am Choir Sings 10:00am B'nai Mitzvah of Owen Jennings and Abigail Katznelson (Chukkat-Balak)
23	24 9:00am Shoresh Day Camp starts 8:00pm Rel.Sch.Comm	25	26	27	28 8:00pm Erev Shabbat 8:00pm Anniversary Shabbat	29 10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Shari Degenshein (Pinchas)
30						

# Temple Ner Tamid

## May 2002

May 2002

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2002

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			May 1	2	3	4
			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 7:30pm 1yr Bar Mitzvah Orientation	Gr. 9 RAC 9:00am PreSchool 7:00pm Tot Shabbat 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Jake Goldstein (*Behar-Bechukotai) 8:00pm Havdylan Cafe
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Gr. 9 RAC 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am Genesis 12:00pm Hebrew Classes	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Sisterhood Board	9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NY 8:00pm Exec.Board	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 8:30pm Adult Ed.Mtg	9:00am PreSchool	9:00am PreSchool 10:30am Bimah Time 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Sisterhood Shabbat Speaker	10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Edelstein (Bemidbar) 10:00am Casual Minyan
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day 8:30am R.S.Shavuot Program 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:45am Genesis 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9	9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NJ 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 8:00pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot	7:00am SHAVUOT Services OFFICE CLOSED 8:00pm CONFIRMATION	10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Bass-Brown (Shavuot 2) 10:00am Yizkor
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Last Day Gr. K-5 8:30am Mitzvah Day 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 8:45am Temple Tots 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 12:30pm Congregational Meeting 5:00pm Ten Mins of Torah	Last Day Gr. 6-9 9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S.Shavuot Program 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Sisterhood 8:00pm Brotherhood	8:00am Seniors 9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Religious Affairs	9:00am PreSchool 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Erik Pesner (Naso)
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Memorial Day	9:00am PreSchool 1:30pm Seniors	9:00am PreSchool	9:00am PreSchool 12:30pm 5thGrade Parents Survival Mtg	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat 8:00pm Anniversary Shabbat	



## B'NAI MITZVAH

May 4 . . . . . Jake Goldstein  
May 11 . . . . . Jordan Edelstein  
May 18 . . . . . Alexa Bass-Brown  
May 25 . . . . . Erik Pesner

## THEIR MEMORIES ARE A BLESSING

Irving Mednick...beloved grandfather of Barbara Brownsword  
Heinz B. Ostheimer...beloved father of Debbie Ostheimer  
Leo Schneider...beloved husband of Marilyn Schneider  
Harry Shapiro...beloved father of Enid Shapiro  
Clarice Abrams Strasser...beloved mother of Fred Strasser

## *Ner Tamid is About People*

### *Yahrzeits*

#### **Shabbat May 3**

Evelyn Altwarg  
Melvin Bellet  
Leonard Berg  
Harry Bergoffen  
Hyman I. Biegeleisen  
Suzan C. Bohrer  
Sarah Fisher  
Allan Garber  
Perry Goldstein  
Sadie Hertzberg  
Philip Kaplan  
Morris Kirschenbaum  
Peter Kirschenbaum  
Frank Koppelman  
Julius Krulowitz  
Bertha C. Kurzman  
David Lembeck  
Gerson Lipman  
Rakhil Meiliker  
Richard Mellman  
Samuel Miller  
Regina Peters  
Max Rosen  
Joseph J. Ruffalo, Sr.  
Ira Schoen  
Michael Schomer  
Rose Schwartz  
Walter L. Scott  
BenZion Shapiro  
Shirley Sherman  
Yefim Tanenbaum  
Jerome Werby  
Leah Zimerspitz

#### **Shabbat May 10**

Sam Alexander  
Ms Martha Bass  
Harry Bergoffen  
Dora Cowan  
Richard Ebel  
Yetta Edelstein  
Solomon Goldfarb  
William Grossman  
Irving Gurvitch  
Jack Halpern  
Rebecca Kahn  
Rebecca Kantor  
Sadie Kirschenbaum  
Daniel Krohn  
Mollie Miller  
Samuel Mintz  
Jeffrey A. Newman  
Anna O'Donnell  
David Shakin  
Fannie Taffet  
Gerald Udell  
Samuel Ziman

#### **Shabbat May 17**

Minnie Berman  
Norma Black  
Mollie Borofsky  
Lisbeth Brodie  
Irving David  
Harry Fisher  
Max J. Friedman  
Claire B. Fromson  
Clara Gaffin  
Linda Grishman  
Abraham N. Ivner  
Gertrude Ivner  
Celia Kamin  
Edna Kenler  
Herman Kenler  
Aurelie Klein  
Terry Levin  
David Levine  
Alvin Levkoff  
Rachel Pimes  
Evelyn Richmond  
Benjamin Ring  
Sophie Schur Freier  
Mary Schutzman  
Samuel Sherman  
Albie Weinstein  
Betty Woldow  
Sanford Yablon

#### **Shabbat May 24**

Morris Alpart  
Norman Alpert  
Jack Arum  
Morton Belove  
Isidor Charney  
Saul Chavkin  
Harvey Chyka  
Dorothy Cohen  
S. H. Cohen  
Rabbi Nathan Fish  
Jesse Fishkin  
Max Frost  
Dora Gilberg  
Stanford Gilberg  
Irving Hoffman  
Louis Kahn  
Sarane R. Kaplan  
Max Laufer  
Mamie Levine  
Sarah Maybe  
Irene Neuman  
Lester Newman  
Rose Polan  
Barry L. Protas  
Ciel Rabinowitz  
Ellen Rovins  
Rose Schwartz  
Harry Silver  
Nellie Solomon  
Dora J. Tichauer  
Howard L. Weinberg  
Sylvia Wiesner  
Sophie Woletz

#### **Shabbat May 31,**

Hyman Asher  
Marilyn August  
Rebecca Beckerman  
Samuel Carlin  
Norman E. Cooper  
Anne Daniels  
Max Donnenfeld  
Israel M. Dorfman  
Julius DuBrowin  
Gertrude H. Elsohn  
Samuel Fromson  
Isaac Ginsberg  
Bernard Goffman  
Harry Goodman  
Sam Haut  
Israel Hochbaum  
Irving Hoffman  
Anna Intindola  
Elsa Karger  
Anne R. Kirsch  
Rose Koslowsky  
Jack Lavner  
Dorothy Lentz  
Sally S. Levenson  
Abe Levin  
David Levy  
Bessie Miller  
George Nadison  
Sylvia Rubin  
Max Sarason  
Morris D. Schlager  
Charles G. Schoenfeld  
Jacob Schondorf  
Lena Schondorf  
Isidor I. Schreiber  
Geraldine Siegel  
Walter V. Singer  
Eli Sklansky  
Frederic Sorkin  
Paul Spitz  
Joseph Tobias  
Dorothy Waldman  
Corrine Wallach  
Sonya Zessee  
Theresa Zwerling



from  
**Joan Goodman** Shoresh Director

We are beginning to wind down for the year. It's hard to believe that we have less than a month of school remaining. For all of the children this year has been filled with fabulous experiences and friendships that will follow them into the coming years. Our 4-year old class is busy getting ready for their graduation. This will be on Friday, June 7th at 10:30 am. All are welcome.

As school slowly comes to an end, we are preparing for our Summer Play Camp to begin. Our 8-week program begins June 24th and continues through August 16th. It promises to be a fun summer. Registration for Summer or Fall is available by phoning the Temple office or picking up forms located in the Temple lobby.

### **Blood Drive at TNT on May 19**

"There is still time brother," from the movie *On The Beach*, starring Gregory Peck.

It's not too late to reserve a time slot for your donation. Let me know if you're coming!

Temple members are again invited to participate in a blood drive to be held in the Bloodmobile, which will be in the parking lot of the Temple on Sunday May 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Reservations for specific time slots every 20 minutes starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 1:40 p.m. may be made by contacting Harvey Morginstin, 973-338-6408, leave message, or e-mail to <hayimm@excite.com>.

Thanks,  
Harvey

### **High Holy Days...ALREADY!**

Thinking ahead...There's something new afoot for the Holidays!

**B'Yachad – Celebrating the High Holidays Together:  
A family worship experience.**

A service for children in grades 3-6 and their parents.

First day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings  
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Watch your mail for details!

### **Brotherhood Meeting**

Brotherhood will hold an election of officers meeting on May 20, 2002 at the Temple at 8:00 p.m. You know that your dues are paid if you are receiving the Achim Magazine, if not bring a check.

### **Education Committee**

The Education Committee thanks everyone who supported the Religious School Passover Candy Sale this year. As a result of your participation, we were able to raise more than \$1000 for religious school activities.

Thanks very much.  
Karen Straim

### **Membership Committee**

It is my last month as the vice president of membership and have many people to thank for making it a great three years. There were many prospective members to meet and call and lots of new members to welcome, which was done by the membership committee. Thank you to Debby Miller, Dede and Howard Hirsch, Ann Marie Nolin, Bob Adler, Phyllis Lowenthal, Meryl Asher, Rachel Poggie, Marge and Paul Grayson, Cindy Herman, Beryl Leffler, Nancy Franklin, Robin Schlager, Barbara Furst, and Sheri Silverstein. The office staff sends out many packets of information promptly to people interested in the temple, which is important and appreciated. Thanks also to Marilyn and Rabbi Kushner for hosting a new member dinner each year.

Representing Ner Tamid is an easy and enjoyable job with the inspiring and dynamic Rabbi Kushner and Cantor Levitt. All I had to do was to tell people to attend services, because I knew that anyone that belonged here would connect to our clergy and warm congregation.

Many hours of talent and professional time have been generously donated to create ads and printed materials needed by membership by Allan Gorman, Cliff Kahn and Barbara Furst. Thanks for always saying "Yes."

If you would like to be more involved in the temple community, please call me or any vice president or chairperson of a committee. We try to reach out to you if you indicated a particular interest on your application, but if you have not heard from anyone, please call.

One more expression of appreciation to all of you for being part of this great community that strives to make our lives more meaningful and the world a better place.

Sonia Rappaport

## REFORM MOVEMENT WINS 42% OF VOTES IN WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION!

Thanks for your participation!

We won - again! In another landslide, the Reform movement ARZA/WORLD UNION won 61 of the 145 delegates elected to the World Zionist Congress in June. Our win of 42% of the vote was almost double that of our nearest competitors, the Conservative and Orthodox movements. Thanks also to Bob David for coordinating and running TNT's participation in the campaign.

ARZA thanks all for your tremendous support of the campaign. This year was particularly hard on ARZA. "With the fighting in Israel continuing daily and September 11 occurring immediately after the campaign began, we know how difficult it was for you to keep our congregations focused on the campaign. You did a fantastic job. Your work will allow us to continue representing the Reform and Reconstructionist movements effectively in Israel.

"Second, the results of the campaign demonstrate with clarity that the Reform movement's values are the most popular by far within American Jewry. Also, we are better organized than other Jewish movements. This combination - the values we represent and the organizational capacity to articulate these values and create institutions that bring our values alive - is the difference between just another good idea and a vibrant movement that influences events and impacts on people's lives.

"You have given us a renewed mandate to continue to work for another five years for the creation of an Israel that reflects the very best of Jewish hopes, aspirations and tradition. With your continuing support, we can make our shared vision a reality."

Following are the official results of the vote:

### Slate Number of Votes Percent Number of Delegates

ARZA/WORLD UNION, North America	37,492	41.87%	61
MERCAZ USA (Conservative)	19,787	22.10%	32
Religious Zionist Movement (Orthodox)	17,952	20.05%	29
Meretz USA	3,517	3.93%	6
Zionist Organization of America	2,720	3.04%	5
Herut USA	1,908	2.13%	3
Labor Zionist Movement	1,881	2.10%	3
Zionist Coalition/Likud	1,051	1.17%	2
Confederation/Bnai Zion	1,023	1.14%	2
Baltimore District/AZU	795	0.89%	1
Green Zionist Alliance	622	0.69%	1
Invalid ballots	790	0.88%	
Total	89,538	100.00%	145

## Shop for Israel

Israel's loss of income from tourism and related industries is acute. Without moving far from your desk, you can help support some of Israel's vendors. Follow these links to "Shop Israel" and show you care by helping the Israeli economy.

<http://www.israelshop1.com>

Israeli flags, cosmetics, jewelry, unusual items.

[http://www.israel-music.com/israel\\_music-homepage.cfm](http://www.israel-music.com/israel_music-homepage.cfm)

One stop shopping for Israeli CDs.

<http://www.aleidafna.co.il/> Order plants and flowers from Israel for delivery there or in the US.

<http://www.israelcraft.com/> Beautiful, unique tallitot.

<http://www.israelbooks.com/> Great choice of books, including new ones on terrorism.

<http://www.rotem.net/misc.html> Beautiful Judaica.

<http://www.jerusalemgifts.com/> Jewish and Christian items; books, tapes.

<http://www.thesourceisrael.com/current/> Interesting and unique items and ideas.

<http://www.cegi.org/> Information on helping Israeli businesses from the US.

<http://www.ipoststore.com/> Good on gift books and music.

<http://www.cegi.org/> Info on helping Israeli businesses from the US.

<http://heaven-land.virtualave.net/> Mystical candles, jewelry, crystals and gems, fragrances and oils.

<http://www.israeldirect.co.il/> Well set up site, easy to buy from.

<http://israelvisit.co.il/> Off to a good start.

<http://www.jerusalemgifts.com/> Has both Jewish and Christian items.

<http://www.esek.com/tradition/> A friendly source for Chanukah, bar mitzvah, and wedding gifts.

<http://www.israeliwishes.com/> Food products plus books and music.

<http://www.thesourceisrael.com/current/> Small site but has well-chosen products.

[www.shorashim.net](http://www.shorashim.net) From Jewish Quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem.





## Who can you recommend for this exciting program?

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is having a Young Adult Academy weekend in June called, *Back to the Sources: A Taste of Tradition for the 21st Century*. This is one of the opportunities available for 20s and 30s to engage in Jewish study and learn more about leadership and young adult groups.

The quickly growing group of young adults involved in creating an infrastructure of young adults in our congregations is called *Striking Sparks/Raising Ruach*. As a group they will be joining the Young Adult Academy starting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, and ending at noon on Sunday, June 9. The purpose of *Sparks and Ruach* is to promote networking and idea-sharing, to involve 20s and 30s in exciting Jewish learning, and most of all, to support Reform congregations in actively engaging Jews in their 20's and 30's.

For more information email <nyablonka@uahc.org>, visit our website [www.uahc.org/synaff/sparks.smtml](http://www.uahc.org/synaff/sparks.smtml) or call 212-650-4230.

## UAHC Leadership Mission to Israel

The UAHC is again sponsoring a Leadership Mission to Israel this summer, from June 9-17. Last year, two of our members, Bob Adler and Barbara Furst, had an inspiring and phenomenal experience participating in this. The cost will be \$1975 per person (double occupancy) + departure tax. If you are interested, please contact ARZA Travel at 1-888-811-2812 or 212-683-6311 or email [ARZAtravel@aol.com](mailto:ARZAtravel@aol.com). We are hoping again for participation in this to provide solidarity to Israelis and to inspire yourself.

## UAHC Disaster Relief Fund

The UAHC Disaster Relief Fund has received more than \$1.5 million dollars from more than 7500 people to help those affected by the events of September 11. Contributions ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000 have been made to multiple organizations. Thank you to those who have contributed. Details on each organization are shown on the Temple Bulletin Board.

The Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund  
The Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 100  
The New York City Coalition Against Hunger  
The New York Police and Fire Widows and Children's Benefit Fund  
The Robin Hood Foundation  
The September 11th Fund  
Service Employees International Union  
Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation  
The Uniformed Firefighters Association Widows and Children's Fund  
The Legal Aid Society of New York  
Survivors' Fund of the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region  
Safe Horizon  
Help USA  
The Children's Health Fund  
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow  
The New York Association of New Americans  
The Stonewall Community Foundation

As additional contributions arrive, more disbursements will be made. Thank you to those who contributed.

## A question that is most probably on everyone's mind ... What do Cheesecake and Jewish Feminism have in common?

Find out at the Temple Ner Tamid annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot.  
Together At Sinai: Illuminating the Ten Commandments

Thursday, May 16, 2002 from 8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

A program containing options for study, include:

1. Some study of the writings of S'fat Emet.
  2. Feminist Perspectives on Revelation
  3. Gleanings from the Book of Ruth from a Tikkun Olam lens
- ...and more.

The more adult TNT members that are willing to open themselves up to text study (both ancient and modern) the more study options there will be.

(And don't forget the cheesecake!)

This year's program will continue the history of wonderful study opportunities that the Tikkun Leil Shavuot affords the Temple Ner Tamid community.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate the program and dairy reception, please contact Rick Abrams, (973) 655-9493 or <[rabrams@uahc.org](mailto:rabrams@uahc.org)>.



## Rabbi Steven Kushner *continued*

what they are and dream of what they could become, and then to help them transform that vision into a reality. To be sure, it centers around Torah and learning, but isn't that why we exist as a synagogue in the first place?

In the next few weeks members of our congregation will be reaching out to many of you to learn what you would like Ner Tamid to be. How might we do a better job of creating and nurturing Jews? What would be the ideal *for you*? There is no reason to think small. But there is no excuse not to think. [If you would like to be part of the process, feel free to contact Brian O'Reilly, our SEI Chair, 973-746-0316.]

As you no doubt know by now, we have just commenced a campaign to raise lots of money to expand our building once again. But a very large part of that money is designed to be set aside into an endowment. Not a rainy-day fund, but an incubator. A place into which we can place our dreams. And if we all do this together, that *incubator* will hatch a synagogue that functions like a community. A place where all its members are covenanted to each other for a common cause: the study and practice of Torah. That, indeed, is our ultimate goal—to transform Temple Ner Tamid into a *center for Jewish life and learning*.

This is why Ner Tamid exists. But know this: The correct translation of *Ner Tamid* is not 'eternal' light but rather 'perpetual' light. Which is to say, the light does not burn by itself. It must be maintained. Every day. It requires devotion. And vision. After all, the light burns not just for us. ■

I fell in love with Israel during my year of study there. The sense of belonging to the piercing beauty of the Land, and the strength of those who founded and formed it has never left me. Israel is more than a place. It is not just another nation. It is my spiritual home. In Israel lies the proof of the eternal spirit of the Jewish people.

In the 80's and 90's we American Jews began to take Israel for granted, or as Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "We have been beset by spiritual amnesia." By habit, Israel became something that had always been there and would always be there. We forgot the mystery and the heroic struggle of Israel. Well, we've gotten a wake-up call.

The hard truth is that Israel has been engaged in a struggle for survival for the last fifty-four years. Every moment since its creation has been a miracle. Twenty-first century Jews have finally recognized that we cannot take Israel for granted any more. Over a hundred thousand American Jews of all denominations and streams understood this fact on Monday April 15. Jews from all over the country and from all forms of Judaism came together to say, "We Stand with Israel."

Ultra-orthodox Jews in black coats stood sweating next to Hillel college students with belly rings. Lubavitcher mitzvah-men wrapped tefillin on anyone who would listen to their call for "Moshiach!" Israeli flags were everywhere. My favorite scene: two modern orthodox guys giving out sunscreen to barely clad female students. Hey, we were all in it together. People shared water, interrupted the conversations of strangers, and booed Arafat's name as if it were Haman's. At the end of the long, difficult day, the best part was that Jews were Jews. I heard an unspoken message rise from among the multitudes of Yidn: Let's stop fighting among ourselves – and fight those who seek to destroy us. It was hot, smelly, close, crowded, sunny, dehydrating, surreal and inspiring. Many people commented that it felt just like Israel.

Heschel compared the State of Israel to the Torah. Like the revelation at Sinai, it is not a one-time event – but an event which unfolds and reveals itself in each generation. Israel is more than just a country where Jews can live in freedom and security, it is a place of hope and grandeur, sacrifice and blood.

As Jews who are privileged and blessed to see Zion restored in our lifetime, we have not only a responsibility, but a duty, to do all we can to see that Israel survives and thrives. Israel stands before each one of us as a personal challenge – how will we answer the call? Many of you came to D.C. for the historic rally, many of you have written letters or sent donations. But if you have not sent a letter to your congressman, senator and president, I urge you to do so and express your support for Israel. Donate to the UJA-Federation which helps our needy brothers and sisters in Israel. Buy Israeli products on-line and support the merchants and businesses there. Plan a trip to Israel, they need us now more than ever. And finally, pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the entire people of Israel. ■

Earlier this year Temple Ner Tamid was awarded a SEI grant. SEI, or *Synagogue Education Incubator*, is designed to "promote the most creative, dynamic, successful and meaningful [program for] Jewish growth" involving, at its core, "institutional change." Its process is to help synagogues evaluate

## Cantor Jessica Levitt *continued*

(Abi Katznelson continued from page 3)

room to walk we made our way closer to the Capital building and sat down. There was so much spirit that one couldn't help feeling included and feeling energized. After many speakers whom I had never before heard of had comforted some with their promises, came the wise words of two great leaders: Former Mayor of New York, Rudolf Giuliani, and former Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. After this, most people in our group could no longer tolerate the heat.

We left at 3:50, almost an hour after the Rally had been scheduled to end. This was because every "true" politician wanted to speak that day, on behalf of, and to the people who had come to support what they believed was right. No more terror.

Believe it or not, however, what struck me the most happened after we had left the rally. Not only did I notice how people on the street were giving out water and helping passers by, but also, to keep from getting lost, the group of women all walking together from our Temple took a large (Israeli) flag and each person took a corner of the flag. This way, if everyone held onto the flag, we would be sure to stay together. This made me think. What if this flag stood for Israel, and we, a group of four or five people, stood for the Jewish population? Then wouldn't it symbolize the fact that we need Israel to keep us together and to lead the way. If the flag tears, if Israel does not stand up to terror, so much will be lost for it is Israel that holds the Jewish population together.

I am so proud and happy that I went to the rally, it was a truly memorable experience.

Thank you Cantor Levitt and Rabbi Kushner. ■



## Mitzvah Day 2002

The Religious School and the Tikkun Olam (Social Action) Committee are sponsoring a Mitzvah Day.

Do Good With Your Dad!  
Kibbitz With Your Kids!  
Do Mitzvot With Your Mom!

Sign up for temple grounds clean up, house maintenance for the elderly, or join the religious school on a clean up of Clark's Pond.

**When:** Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast Nosh	9:00 - 9:30
D'Var Torah	9:30 - 10:00
Mitzvahs	10:00 - 12:00
Program Wrap up	12:15 - 12:30
Congregational Mtg.	12:30 - 1:00

**Where:** Temple Ner Tamid

**Who:** All Temple Members

**How:** Sign up in the Temple Lobby or contact coordinators:

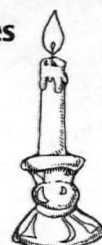
Temple grounds clean up	Larry Westreich	509-1444
House maint. for the elderly	David Friedman	509-8403
Clark's Pond clean up	Jodi Nussbaum	655-1739

-Sign up for the blood drive on the same day, with Harvey Morganstin at 973-338-6408 or hayimm@excite.com  
- Bring non-perishable food items and toiletries in for the Mazon Box




### May Candle Lighting Times

May 3 . . . 7:37 p.m.  
May 10 . . . 7:44 p.m.  
May 17 . . . 7:51 p.m.  
May 24 . . . 7:57 p.m.  
May 31 . . . 8:03 p.m.

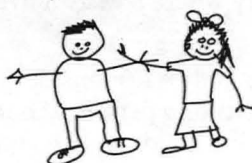


## SHORESH PRESCHOOL

Temple Ner Tamid

Enriched and Creative Programming for Children

2 year, 3 year and Pre-K Classes



Mommy and Me

Full and Half Day Programs

Enriched Jewish Curriculum

Class Trips • Music • Computers

Holiday Celebrations • Summer Play Camp

Come in or call Joan Goodman, Director at 338-1500



936 BROAD STREET  
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07003

Klau Library  
Hebrew Union College  
Jewish Institute of Religion  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45220



Dated Material: Please Deliver Promptly