

Temple Topics

june—july 2002 ✦ sivan—tammuz—av 5762

Not too long ago we had something of a *situation* at a Bar Mitzvah ceremony. During the service, one of the invited guests—an autistic teenager—decided to go up to the *bimah* and sit in the empty chair. I heard the commotion from behind me. It was the sound of shuffling feet followed by loud footsteps up to the *bimah*. Turning to my right I saw him sitting in the chair normally reserved for the holder of Torah. It's a sacred seat. Not just anyone can sit in it. Especially during the service.

from

Rabbi Steven Kushner

He had this look of accomplishment on his face. Maybe even pride. He was as one who had just climbed a mountain. Or scaled a wall. But to the rest of us in the sanctuary he was an intruder. He had violated sacred space. The moment of theater had been interrupted. Of course, we all just went on *as if* nothing had happened. *As if* he wasn't even there. People diverted their eyes, pretending not to notice. But his presence was unmistakable. And unavoidable. For in just a few moments the entire family would ascend *bimah* to pass the Torah from generation to generation. It fell to me to ask his parents to get him down from the chair.

I confess I've struggled with my actions on that day. Even though I did what I probably had to do—after all, I'm the rabbi—I have been troubled by my making him come down. Not simply because, as the parent of a special-needs child, I understand what was

going on in his mind that day. [The chair was calling out to him. It was up there. And it was empty. What did he know from decorum and convention?] Rather, because he was in the throes of the performance of a *mitzvah*. He was responding to the commanding voice of the chair. He was performing his own *aliyah* (which literally means 'to go up'), and I stopped him. I made him get down.

What is the purpose of prayer? Does it have to be the way we orchestrate it? What if, heaven forfend, we take our own path to holiness? What if we do it *wrong*? What is wrong?

To be sure, the needs of the community take precedence over the impulses of the individual. Especially when that individual's actions intrude on the collective worship of the group. It was, I think, appropriate for me to ask his father to try and get him to come down. The ceremony of the passing of the Torah deserved its sanctity, free from distraction. Yet such needs ought not confuse us as to the true purpose of worship, and that is to get closer to God.

The Hasidic literature tells of how some Jews were making fun of the way other Jews pray. "They don't *davven* right. They bend their knees at the wrong time. They bow when they're supposed to be upright. Their Hebrew is sloppy." The list went on. Hearing this, the *Baal Shem Tov*—the founder of Hasidism and their master—approached them and asked, "When a person is drowning, do you judge the way he tries to swim?" ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tisha B'Av Wednesday, July 17 at 8:30 p.m. We will have a brief service, followed by a study discussion on the Book of Lamentations. The Tikkun will culminate with the reading of the Ten Commandments at midnight and a spiritually filled recital of Shema Yisrael.

Friday, June 21 at 8 p.m. Special Israel *Zimriyah* (Sing-a-long) with Cantor Levitt and the TNT Choir.

Guest Speaker Friday, July 5 at 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Maya Leibovich of Kehilat Mevasserat Zion, will talk to us on religious pluralism — and the mood in Israel today.

SHABBAT AT NER TAMID

Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat services every Friday at 8 p.m. through June 28

Erev Shabbat services every Friday at 6:30 p.m. July 6 through August 30

Shabbat services every Saturday at 10 a.m.

June 7 at 7 p.m.: Tot Shabbat

June 8 at 10 a.m.: Casual Minyan

June 28: Anniversary Shabbat

B'nai Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to the happy families.

June 1 Robert Resnick
Harry Raymond

June 8 Devorah Kass

June 15 Andrew Citron
Evan Fishman

June 22 Owen Jennings
Abigail Katznelson

June 29 Shari Degenshein

July 6 Andrew Mickens

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Sisterhood VP of Program

Susan Fader

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Temple Topics Staff

Barbara Shapiro Furst

Elinor Neifeld

from

Bob Adler *President*

I agreed to take on the challenge of the presidency a few months ago by accepting the nomination. The time period prior to June 1, when I took office, has been remarkable for me. I thank my family for their willingness to share my time and energy — particularly my wife, Anne-Marie, who offered her strong encouragement to pursue this challenge, knowing full well what the impact would be on our time.

Many other people at Ner Tamid have offered their help and support. Some have jokingly questioned my sanity and then immediately pledged their time and energy. I am particularly grateful to outgoing president Marge Grayson for her patience with my many questions over the past months — far too many of them asked by cell phone during my 30-mile commute to and from work each day. (I have a hands-free earplug...so both hands are on the steering wheel.)

I have asked Marge to stay very active at Ner Tamid by co-chairing the Kehilla Campaign with David Abramson. Please show your support for Ner Tamid when Marge, David or another Ner Tamid member calls upon you to make a financial pledge to this effort. Remember that the Kehilla campaign is designed to raise funds for both a necessary building expansion and the creation of an endowment to support what we actually do in that expanded building.

A finely balanced network

A wonderfully unexpected part of what I have seen and felt over these months is that I found myself reading the Shabbat prayers with a fresh set of eyes. One of the most compelling prayers for me right now is one that is relatively new to our congregational prayerbook. It is one of the first prayers said in the morning. The heading at the top of page 22 in our Shabbat morning siddur is translated as "The Miracle of Life." This prayer is part of an initial series of morning prayers that focus on our body, our mind and our soul. In the middle of the body-focused prayer are the words "Praised are You, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made our bodies in wisdom, combining veins, arteries and vital organs into a *finely balanced network*."

I had always read this literally, reminding myself of the creative genius that allows the body to function at all. Recently, this has become a very different prayer for me. I am reading it these days as a metaphor for a synagogue community — as a finely balanced network of bodies, minds and souls at Ner Tamid.

Finding your Ner Tamid mitzvot

The dictionary defines "member" first as "a distinct part of a whole", then as "a part of a human or animal body or plant" — before getting to "one that belongs to a group or organization." Each of us is a distinct part of the finely balanced network that is Temple Ner Tamid. We define its body, mind, and soul...and we can only do this together.

As I begin my presidency, I want to challenge each member to define how you want to be "a distinct part of a whole" in this "finely balanced network." Ner Tamid is a vital community only if you are part of the whole. Being a member of a vital synagogue involves far more than joining an institution to which one pays fees in exchange for services. For the Ner Tamid community to fulfill

(continued on page 14)

from Immediate Past President

Marge Grayson

I can't believe this is my last column as president of Ner Tamid. I have been greatly privileged to serve in this position for the past three years. At our congregational meeting on May 19th, I gave an overview of the year and the congregation for the 90-some attendees. I repeat this in material part for the rest of you.

First, let's start off with some statistics: we have now topped 500 families as members plus about a dozen who are affiliates—people who are former full members who now live more than 50 miles away. Our Religious School enrollment this year topped 400; and as you probably know, it meets in 6 sessions in only 11 rooms. Approximately 50 new families joined this year. Over 50 children have or will become b'nai mitzvah from last September through the end of June; about the same number will become b'nai mitzvah next year.

A few months ago, we hired an administrator, Renee Drell, to supervise the building, the office, and to relieve the burden on volunteers and our other wonderful professional staff, ranging from the Rabbi and Cantor to Iris Schwartz, Joan Goodman, Sharon Rapaport, our teachers, etc.

This was, in many ways, a very difficult year for all of us; 9/11 has colored our lives, and, I think, made many things go more slowly than might otherwise have happened. Nevertheless, in some ways, it galvanized us. Our Tikkun Olam committee has done more than ever before, starting with an enormous High Holiday food drive, and on-going food drives; 2 blood drives; a Temple-wide Mitzvah Day participated in by over 200, a support group for those affected by 9/11. One program that we have come to think of as under the rubric of Tikkun Olam is our buddy program for homebound seniors. This year we affected the lives of more than 24 seniors by connecting active seniors with withdrawn ones. Originally funded by the Grotta Foundation, the Board has unanimously voted to continue to maintain this wonderful personal program. Likewise, the Board has attempted to call all Temple members twice this past year, once around Rosh Hashonah and once before Passover, hoping to match up people without Seders with people having extra room.

The Religious School has continued to boom; there were some behavioral problems this year which were strongly addressed and have been resolved. Every grade had at least 2 programs involving parents, and all were well attended. Guest speakers and programs infuse the program whose theme this year was 'blessings.' Ten Minutes of Torah, a cross-over adult ed program with the Religious School remains enormously popular with both adults and children. This involves parallel learning of parents and students; those who completed

(continued on page 15)

from

Cantor Jessica Levitt

In a few weeks, I'll be in Israel. I'm going to Jerusalem as an ARZA/World Union for Progressive Judaism youth delegate to the 34th World Zionist Congress. Whew. Hope they make the name-tags big enough for all that information.

People have been asking me if I'm nervous about the trip. Let me put it to you this way, my main concern is being able to bring my own full-size pillow on the plane. I need to make sure I can sleep at least a little on the ten hour flight there and the twelve hour flight back. Security worries? Sure, but they are the same ones I have here. Cheney assures us that suicide bombers are on the way. There are madmen planning to attack Americans in America. We're on an "elevated risk" level right now. Synagogues in France, Italy and Romania are being bombed. So where can you go to feel safe? Israel.

Israel is a place where danger, death and destruction are possible at any moment. Therefore the safety is not physical, it's emotional. Where else can you feel that everyone is alert, ready to act, and prepared to stop terror with their own two hands? Just think of the courage and sacrifice in the last few months: the old man who stopped the female bomber from blowing up a supermarket; the young policeman in Jerusalem who stopped a bomber and sacrificed his life; the grandmother and guests at a bat mitzvah, who attacked the gunman who burst into their simcha and beat him up screaming, "You're ruining my grand-daughter's bat mitzvah!" In Israel, everyone's eyes are open; everyone has got your back.

Sabras have a reputation for being uncaring and cold — sort of like New Yorkers, but worse. The truth is they are cold and uncaring — until you are taken into their *mish-pacha*, their family. If you get only a little under the necessary armor they wear in order to face a September 11th every day for the last fifty years, you find family.

Am I nervous about going to Israel? I'm more nervous about living in a country that is sitting, almost patiently waiting to be attacked again. I'm more nervous about Americans who are too quick to return to normalcy. I'm more nervous about the truck of cyanide missing in Mexico and the twenty-five young Arab men who have come off freighter ships since March of this year. I'm more nervous about the fact that the security deadline for our airports is going to pass with no progress.

Israel is my spiritual home. I believe that God will guard my going out and my coming in. I want to walk beneath the unrelenting sun, and rest my head against the cool stone of the Western Wall made smooth by time. I will place my desperate scrap of paper into the overflowing cracks of the *Kotel*. I want to ascend to Jerusalem and pray with all my heart for the peace of my beloved America. ■

from
Iris Schwartz Education Director

It's over. At least some of it. For about four weeks I felt as if I were in training for the marathon. The last few weeks of religious school brings lots of programs, celebrations, mitzvah day, report cards, a final faculty meeting and more. At the same time I also find myself in the midst of recruiting new teachers as well as beginning to plan programs and curriculum pieces for the fall. Further, I have to get my own children prepared for camp and this year help my daughter Rachel get ready to attend Hebrew University in Jerusalem for her Junior year abroad. It's no wonder that gray hairs seem to be sprouting faster than you could say l'hitraot (till we meet again) three times fast.

Underlying all of this outward activity is my constant hope for peace in Israel, now even more so than before for very personal reasons, and my constant fear of its opposite. My daughter will be going off at the end of July, confident that her presence will make even a small difference to the State of Israel.

Those who attended our Ten Minutes of Torah celebration learned from Rabbi Dan Grossman that there are three ways to make the sign for a hearing impaired person for the Hebrew word shalom, peace. Each of the signs was so different. For the third and perhaps most meaningful sign you hold your hands so that your fingertips are pointing at each other. Next, the fingers interlock in gear-like fashion, each finger fitting neatly next to the other, one really inside the other, interdependent but equally important. The fingers move in and out, always meshing perfectly.

As I watched Rabbi Grossman move his hands so gracefully I thought: How do we get to that place where this sign for peace represents reality, when all people realize the interconnectedness of humankind? I know how innocent this sounds. I also know that despite many years of education, work and life experience I still often ask the same simplistic question, "Why can't people just get along?"

I realize once again how timely and timeless was our Ten Minutes of Torah theme middot (Jewish values) this year. Ten Minutes of Torah started this year with the following story: The word shalom comes from the same root as the word shalame, which means wholeness. When we take

part in acts of tikkun olam, the repair of the world, when we understand and act in consonance with the Jewish teaching that each and every person is made B'tzelem Elohim, in the image of God, when we all realize that God indeed looks at each of us and what we are doing when God wants to see God's reflection in the world, then and only then will we find shalom in our own lives and perhaps have a chance to find peace and wholeness in the world as well.

After discussing recent world events in class one day some of our sixth graders were asked to design their own peace prize. Eric Handler wrote the following:

"I was not able to design a peace prize because I don't believe the prize should be a plaque or trophy or ribbon. I believe a peace prize should come from the heart. Trophies are nice, but isn't the affection from everybody nicer? That's why I think this award shouldn't be made by man but by man's heart."

As my mother used to say "From your lips to God's ears."

A young Rabbi, Levi Kelman, recently told this story. "When I was young I once asked my father. 'If God was invisible, could God see Himself?' 'My father couldn't answer. But a few days later, after thinking about the question he came into my room at bedtime. He asked me: 'When you want to see yourself, where do you look?' I answered: 'In a mirror.' Then he said to me, 'Well, when God wants to see God, God looks at you, to see if God can see God in the best of what you do.'"

As we approach the installation of a new Board of Directors for the temple, I would like to acknowledge Lisa Berlin, our Education Vice President. Lisa has been the rock upon which I have stood for the past three years. Her remarkable talents are in evidence at every religious school committee meeting and by extension throughout our school. Let us hope that when God wants to see God's reflection in the world God uses Lisa as the example for us all.

Important Religious School Notes

Please return completed registration materials to the temple office before summer begins. In this way you will help us be able to plan more effectively for all of our students.

Those who earned but did not pick up their Ten Minutes of Torah gift should stop by the temple office before the end of June.

Mazal Tov to Elias Wright and Madeline Frank our winners of the fourth and fifth grade Question of the Week award for the year.

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.

This year's Mitzvah Day found about 150 children, parents and teachers helping The Friends of Clarks Pond clean up this lovely track of land complete with a stream that feeds into the Passaic River. Spreading out over this preserve, everyone picked up garbage. We also donated a small generator to help water larger portions of this area that have been newly planted with native grasses.

For those of you who came out and participated you need to know that you truly performed a Mitzvah. The people who clean up Clarks Pond every year continue to be very grateful — we provided a much needed boost of man/woman/child power to their efforts!

from

Lisa Berlin Immediate Past VP of Education

Lois Ring who heads up this group wrote...“We cannot thank you and everyone who came enough for so generously giving of your time and energy. We felt so heartened by the turnout and enthusiasm of your group!

Thank you to Miriam Chilton and Jodi Nussbaum, members of the Religious School committee, who coordinated this event. Miriam secured a grant for this project from Time/AOL. They came up with a terrific theme “Kibbitz With Your Kids, Do good With Your Dad, Do Mitzvot With Your Mom.” They also made the phone calls, wrote the e-mails, made the t-shirts and the table decorations as well as coming up with the idea of teams so we wouldn't all clean the same spot. They put a tremendous amount of effort into ensuring the success of our Mitzvah Day.

Thank you, once again, to Chris and Barbara Brooks. Chris is so enthusiastic about our efforts and for the last two years he has called me and volunteered to help. Where would we be without Chris and the joy he brings to this project! Thanks as well to Chris' company, The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, and what they provide — those wonderful t-shirts and the gloves plus a bunch of other stuff too numerous to mention.

I am proud that our efforts are focused here in

Bloomfield. While our membership is primarily from surrounding towns we must not forget our home base. More than anything this Mitzvah Day project continues to drive home to me the meaning of Tikkun Olam....sustaining and restoring the world...in this case a little bit of Bloomfield, NJ.

Mitzvah Day concluded our Religious School activities for the year. It also was my last activity as Vice President of the Religious School, a position I have held for three year. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to other members of our committee for their help.

I would especially like to thank: Karen Straim who has successfully handled our Passover Candy Sale for three years running;

Edith Novack who played a significant role in establishing our special education efforts this year;

Stephanie Lurie who has found authors and coordinated their visits for the last two years — bringing books alive for our students.

I very much appreciate the support of Rabbi Kushner, Cantor Levitt, our Religious School staff, Marge Grayson and our Board of Trustees.

Lastly, I would like to say how very proud I am of our Religious School. From Ten Minutes of Torah to Havdallah Nights to numerous field trips we have a Religious School that is vibrant and dynamic ...truly the area's best. This is due totally to Iris Schwartz. We are incredibly fortunate to have Iris as our Principal because we have an educator truly devoted to our children's Jewish education and who is continually focused on improving our curriculum and programming.

Our Religious School may not be perfect and the last three years have not always been easy. But, when I walk into our synagogue on Sunday with children over running our building with classes going on in every corner, to feel that spark and the energy gives me a sense of satisfaction that I find hard to communicate. Our Religious School is not just surviving it is thriving. It flourishes because of the devotion of Iris and our educational staff. I am truly grateful.

SUMMER SERVICES SCHEDULE
FRIDAY EVENING EREV SHABBAT SERVICES
JULY 5 THROUGH AUGUST 30
BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M.
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES BEGIN AT 10 A.M.

from
Sisterhood Susan Fader

Important Sisterhood Dates

Sunday June 9 – Rummage Sale. Have you been meaning to clean out your closet or attic? Well, it's not too late. Don't forget to put your treasures aside for our rummage sale. You can bring them to the Temple beginning June 3.

Monday June 10 – 22nd Annual Donor Dinner. Attention Sisterhood Members! Hurry! If you haven't responded to our invitation and want to attend, please contact Susan Fader at (973) 667-7373. The dinner will be held once again at the delectable *Toscana Ristorante* in Montclair.

Potpourri

Don't forget us over the summer.....

Are you a Temple or Sisterhood member with a talent, craft and/or profession that you are interested in sharing with our members? Please give Susan Fader a call at (973) 667-7373 if you are interested in donating your time and sharing your knowledge or talent as a program for an upcoming Sisterhood meeting.

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.

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*.

If you are interested in getting involved in Sisterhood for the upcoming year, please do not hesitate to give us a call over the summer! We'd be happy to hear from you!

Sisterhood Tribute Fund

GRADULATION

Rose Kron	Granddaughter Courtney
Beverly and Norman Reisman	Grandson Jonathan
Shirley Blitzer	Granddaughter Rachel

B'NAI MITZVAH

Norma and Marty Siegel	Grandson David Thomas
Berna Berger	Grandson Adam Matthew
Anne Katz	Granddaughter Michelle

MISCELLANEOUS

Berna Berger	Granddaughter Sara's Confirmation
Elsa and Lennie Lentz	New home in Florida
Stan Jackson	Retirement
Marge Grayson	Thank you
Bob Adler	Good Luck
Charlie Glucoft	Recovery

CONDOLENCES

Bilus Family	Memory of Harriet, wife, mother, grandmother
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THANK YOU

Evelyn and Manny Stier	Good wishes on granddaughter Jill's engagement
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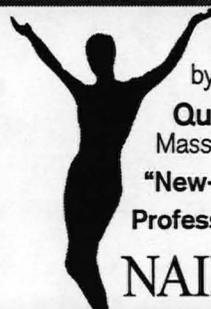
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Anniversaries

Mazel Tov to these couples who celebrate their anniversaries in June and will be honored at Shabbat services on June 29.

Lillian & Abraham Abramson
 Anne-Marie Nolin & Robert Adler
 Lee & Robert Canter
 Lisa Korn & Tony Castrigno
 Deborah Jerome-Cohen & Roger Cohen
 Shirley & Phillip Cooper
 Jacalynn & Ira Danberg
 Ellen Silver & Edward Eisenberg
 Ruth & Kevin Ellman
 Nancy & Joel Franklin
 Joanne & Mark Friedman
 Linda & Victor Gates
 Laurie & Richard Goldberg
 Florence & William Goldstein
 Lori Loebelsohn & David Goldstein
 Lois Waldman & Seth Goodchild
 Susan & Allan Gorman
 Michele & Lennard Grodner
 Karolyn & Jack Grundfest
 Janet Duni & Robert Hertzberg
 Marilyn & Robert Hilowitz
 Dede & Howard Hirsch
 Ellen Sherman & Christopher Hitchcock
 Lynda & William Indek
 Rose & Stanley Jackson
 Deborah & Dana Jennings
 Amy Graydon & Daniel Kaplan
 Esther & Oscar Kettler
 Claire & Stanley Keyles
 Nancy Barbe & Steven Klein
 Robin & Clifford Kulwin
 Marilyn & Steven Kushner
 Mary & Robert Levai

Nicole Bokat & Jay Lindell
 Karen & Laurence Mandelbaum
 Randi & Glenn Metsch-Ampel
 Deborah & Jory Miller
 Deborah Miller & Henry Minkoff
 Patricia & Tom Perlmutter
 Jane & Fred Phelps
 Roberta & Richard Polton
 Ronnie & Matthew Powell
 Amy & Donald Putman
 Lisa & Harold Rabinowitz
 Lisa Reid & Anthony Reid
 Judith & Michael Rogers
 Ellen & Joel Rosenberg
 Keith & Howard Rubin
 Lyn Rosensweig & Bruce Schnelwar
 Sarah & Roger Segal
 Marilyn Cohen & Alan Serrins
 Rachel & Gary Sesser
 Cheryl Gotthelf & Daniel Shapiro
 Estelle & Leonard Sterne
 Stacy & Gregg Stuart
 Nina & Richard Tucker
 Madeline & Lawrence Weinstein
 Tamar & Emil Weiss
 Amy Stavis & Perry Weyser
 Audrey & Mortimer Woletz

Mazel Tov to these couples who celebrate their anniversaries in July and will be honored at Shabbat services on July 27.

Judith & Daniel Anderson
 Myra & Andrew Armour
 Anne & Martin Baum
 Gloria & Sanford Bell
 Amy Winkelman & Gary Blackman
 Elizabeth Erwin & Mark Blackman
 Rhonda & Jerry Einhorn
 Claire & Melvin Feldman
 Felicia & Ronald Festa
 Laura Shack-Finger & Dennis Finger
 Betsy Lembeck & Don Garber
 Arlene Glasser & Brian Glasser
 Elisabeth Werby & Howard Goldman
 Pamela & Robert Good
 Marleen & Richard Grabowsky
 Helen & Melvin Green
 Ellen Berkowitz & John Gribbon
 Laurel & Steven Griff
 Sena Messer & Andrew Gutelle
 Ellen & Frederick Harris
 Francine & Julius Hirsch
 Deirdre O'Halloran & Peter Kaplan
 Marcia & Paul Kramer
 Debby & Harvey Morginstin
 Nisa & Michael Peroff
 Stacy & Flemming Rom-Jensen
 Sharon & Stephen Rosen
 Kathy & Robert Rosenberg
 Lois & Bernard Rosenkrantz
 Evelyn & Manuel Stier
 Linda & Alan Tax
 Leslie & Barry Wiesner
 Irene Sherman & Ray Wolfson

Seniors

Louis 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.

June Calendar of Events

Tuesday, June 4No Meeting

Friday, June 7Trip to The Sculpture Gardens leaves Ner Tamid at 9:00 a.m.

Cost: \$29.00

Tuesday, June 11Closing Luncheon

Cost \$5.00 per person, Frieda Berkowitz will once again be collecting for the lunch

Please watch your mail for our summer schedule!!!

Grotta Foundation

Picture this...The Temple sanctuary filled with happy faces and a concentric circle of dancers-all ages, from 4-94, young seniors, young people, Alzheimer's patients, all enjoying the music of the "OY VEY KELZMER" together as one.

That was Sunday, April 21st. The program was sponsored by Yad B'Yad and the Grotta Foundation and the purpose was for the buddies and the community to come together in simcha.

Our buddy program has united strangers and turned them into friends. Everyone benefits. WON'T YOU BE A BUDDY and come celebrate with us at our next party?

Call Sheila, at the Temple and be part of a mitzvah.

Wendy L. Grossman, D.P.M.

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

Temple Ner Tamid

July 2002

July 2002

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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			

August 2002

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	July 1	2 8:00pm Exec. Board	3	4 Independence Day	5 6:30pm Erev Shabbat	6 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Mickens (Mattot-Masei)
7	8	9 8:00pm Bd of Trustees	10	11	12 6:30pm Erev Shabbat	13 10:00am Shabbat Service
14	15	16 8:00pm Religious Affairs	17 8:30pm Tisha B'Av Service	18 Tisha B'Av	19 6:30pm Erev Shabbat	20 10:00am Shabbat Service
21	22	23	24	25	26 6:30pm Erev Shabbat	27 10:00am Shabbat Service
28	29	30	31			

The Three Weeks "Bein HaMetzarim" & Tisha B'Av Sunday, July 8, and continues through Sunday July 29, 2001.

By Steven H. Nagourney and Richard Abrams
Temple Ner Tamid Religious Affairs Committee

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



We want to take this opportunity to discuss the period that is known as the Three Weeks -- "Bein HaMetzarim", which this year begins on Seventeenth of Tammuz, Thursday, June 27, and continues through Tisha B'Av Thursday July 18, 2002. These days are referred to as the period "within the straits" (bein hametzarim), in accordance with the verse from Lamentations, the scroll from our Bible read on Tisha B'Av: "all her oppressors have overtaken her within the straits" (Lamentations 1:3). The "Three Weeks" between the 17th of Tammuz and the Ninth of Av have historically been days of misfortune and

calamity for the Jewish People. During this time both the First and Second Temples were destroyed, amongst other terrible tragedies. There are no sources in the Gemara which address the period of mourning known as "The Three Weeks and The Nine Days," although the Gemara does say that there should be less happiness from the first of Av. Ashkenazi religious tradition has pushed this date back to the fast of the Seventeenth of Tammuz.

The Seventeenth of Tammuz is a minor fast day, sun-up to sun down, and traditionally is noted as the day when the walls of the Second Temple were breached by the Roman army in 70 C.E. Three weeks later on the ninth of Av the Second Temple was destroyed.

On Shabbat during the Three Weeks, the Haftarah readings are taken from chapters in Isaiah and Jeremiah dealing with the Temple's destruction and the exile of the Jewish people. During this time, various aspects of mourning are observed by the entire nation. Often, joy and celebration traditionally are minimized. And, since the attribute of Divine judgment ("din") is acutely felt, we avoid potentially dangerous or risky endeavors.

May we create a 17th of Tammuz in which the walls between peoples and between persons are broken down -- and then the breakdown is used not for destruction, but for creating new loving connections between us.

LAUGHTER? CERTAINLY NOT.

But according to the Talmud, such was Rabbi Akiva's response. Roman battle cries heard miles away caused the sages to weep. Rabbi Akiva laughed. Frolicking foxes on the Temple Mount — where once only the high priest dare tread — brought tears to the eyes of the sages. Rabbi Akiva laughed. The death throes of their teacher, the saintly Rabbi Eliezer, wrenched sobs from the throats of the sages. Rabbi Akiva laughed.

And so Rabbi Akiva laughed. He laughed because he excelled in the quality of 'straightness of heart.' His keen perception of reality allowed him immediately to glean the kernel of truth from the very event his comrades mourned.

"Akiva, why do you laugh?" the sages asked him when they heard the clamor of Roman legions. "Why do you cry?" Rabbi Akiva replied. "Idol worshipers dwell in peace and security, while the Holy Temple is burnt to the ground ... shall we not cry? "That's why I'm laughing," said Rabbi Akiva. "If this is how God rewards the Romans — who are so wicked and cruel — for the good deeds they sometimes do, how much more will be the reward of the righteous people in the World to Come."

"Akiva, how can you laugh?" they asked standing at the Temple ruins. "Why do you cry?" he replied. "The Holy of Holies about which it's written, 'Any unauthorized person who enters shall die,' and now foxes play there? Shall we not cry?" "That's why I'm laughing," said Rabbi Akiva. "Seeing the fulfillment of the prophecy — "Zion will be plowed like a field" — I more deeply internalize the knowledge that all the prophecies will be fulfilled, including those that foretell the rebuilding of Jerusalem!"

At their teacher's deathbed, Rabbi Akiva explains: "Our teacher, Rabbi Eliezer, enjoyed an ideal life ... his wine never soured, his oil never went bad. He was completely successful in everything. I had a suspicion that he was somehow receiving his reward in this life, and that he had no part in the World to Come. Now that I see his suffering, I realize he's being purged of whatever minute sin he may have committed, and that his reward in the next world remains intact." • And faced with death by torture for the 'crime' of teaching Torah, Rabbi Akiva laughed. "All my life I've been waiting to fulfill the concept 'You shall love Adonai, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul...' and now I finally have the chance."

May we all merit to become 'straight of heart,' to approach Rabbi Akiva's depth of truth. And then, may we say, as the sages did, "Akiva, you have comforted us. Akiva, you have comforted us."

Sources:

• Tractate Makkot 24a, Tractate Sanhedrin 101a; Tractate Menachot 61b Talmud Yerushalmi, Berachot 9:5

The Three Weeks "Bein HaMetzarim" & Tisha B'Av
Thursday, June 27, and continues through Thursday July 18, 2002



TISHA B'AV - THE NINTH OF AV

On Tisha B'Av, five national calamities occurred:

- During the time of Moses, Jews in the desert accepted the slanderous report of the 12 Spies, and the decree was issued forbidding them from entering the Land of Israel. (1312 BCE)
- The First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians, led by Nebuchadnezzar. 100,000 Jews were slaughtered and millions more exiled. (586 BCE)
- The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans, led by Titus. Some two million Jews died, and another one million were exiled. (70 CE)
- The Bar Kochba revolt was crushed by Roman Emperor Hadrian. The city of Betar -- the Jews' last stand against the Romans -- was captured and liquidated. Over 100,000 Jews were slaughtered. (135 BCE)
- The Temple area and its surroundings were plowed under by the Roman general Turnus Rufus. Jerusalem was rebuilt as a pagan city -- renamed Aelia Capitolina -- and access was forbidden to Jews.

Other grave misfortunes throughout Jewish history occurred on the Ninth of Av, including:

- Pope Urban II declared the First Crusade. Tens of thousands of Jews were killed, and many Jewish communities obliterated.
- The Spanish Inquisition culminated with the expulsion of Jews from Spain on Tisha B'Av in 1492.
- World War One broke out on Tisha B'Av in 1914 when Russia declared war on Germany. German resentment from the war set the stage for the Holocaust.
- On Tisha B'Av, deportation began of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto.

ASPECTS OF OBSERVANCE OF TISHA B'AV

During the afternoon prior to Tisha B'Av, it is customary to eat a full meal in preparation for the full fast. (Traditionally only Yom Kippur and Tisha B'Av are full fast days.) Upon sundown, the laws of Tisha B'Av commence -- consisting of the following expressions of mourning: No eating or drinking until nightfall the following evening. Learning Torah, since this is a joyful activity. It is permitted to learn texts relevant to Tisha B'Av and mourning. Many Jews go to work after morning services. Lights in the synagogue are dimmed, candles are lit, and the curtain is removed from the Ark. The cantor leads the prayers in a low, mournful voice. This reminds us of the Divine Presence which departed from the Holy Temple. The Book of Lamentations (Eicha), Jeremiah's poetic lament over the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple, is read both at night and during the day.

Lamentations is a hauntingly beautiful acrostic poem featuring words we've all heard before. As we put the Torah back in the ark every Shabbat, we sing "Hashiveynu elecha v'nashuva; chadeish yameinu k'kedem/ Return us God and we will return; renew our days like the days before."

(Lamentations 5:21)

Please join us at Temple Ner Tamid for a Tisha B'Av ceremony this year on Wednesday, July 17 at 8:30 p.m.
We will have a brief service and read/study/discuss the book of Lamentations.

THEIR MEMORIES ARE A BLESSING

Harriet Bilus, beloved wife of Herbert Bilus

Dr. Alfred Green, beloved wife of Sylvia Green, beloved father of Ellen Weiss

B'NAI MITZVAH

- June 1 Robert Resnick
Harry Raymond
- June 8 Devorah Kass
- June 15 Andrew Citron
Evan Fishman
- June 22 Owen Jennings
Abigail Katznelson
- June 29 Shari Degenshein
- July 6 Andrew Mickens

REFUAH SHLEIMAH: A QUICK AND SPEEDY RECOVERY

William Goldstein
Dede Hirsch
Annie Modesitt
Manuel Stier

BIRTHS

Mazal Tov to Ellen Rothschild and Stuart Kolinski on the birth of their daughter Julia Rose on May 9, 2002.

MAZEL TOV

Two members of Temple Ner Tamid are being honored by the MFEE (Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence) Toasts to the Teachers 2002.

Betty Strauss, a Montclair High School nurse, on Friday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m. Robin Schlager, for 3 years of PTA leadership at Nishuane School on June 5. Call MFEE at 973-509-4021 for details.

FROM HERB BILUS

My daughters, their families and I thank all the members of Temple for their tremendous support on the occasion of Harriet's death and thereafter. No one would plan for such an event on Mother's Day.

Your compassion gave great comfort and enabled us to get through the sudden shock with which we were confronted. We're getting by with the remembrance of the many, many times we enjoyed together.

Her life and our relationship was a blessing and a role model to emulate and for which we are thankful.

Herb Bilus

Ner Tamid is About People

SUPPORT GROUP FOR MOMS

Are you used to having Dinner Without Dad? Do you sometimes feel like a married, yet single mom? We meet monthly to discuss issues related to women whose husbands travel for work or work irregular or long hours.

Join our support group in Montclair to discuss these issues and other topics in a lively, fun, informative and positive atmosphere. Please call Rachel Poggie at (973) 655-1671.

INSTALLATION SHABBAT & THANK YOU

On Friday night June 7th we celebrate our incoming officers and trustees:

President:	Bob Adler
VP for Long Range Planning:	David Abramson
VP for House & Admin.:	Robert Rich
VP for Education:	Nancy Barbe
VP for Shoresh:	Sharon Rosen
VP for Membership:	Barbara Furst
VP for Religious Affairs:	Woody Eisenberg
VP for Finance:	Rob Rosenberg
Financial Secretary/Treas.:	Rochelle Sandler
Secretary:	Belinda Plutz

New trustees are as follows: Lisa Reid, Mark Rakov, Mark Perwien, Miriam Chilton, Dianna Chipkin, Rhonda Einhorn, Nancy Franklin, Howard Hirsch, Beryl Leffler, Ira Wagner, and Amy Winkelman.

Continuing trustees are as follows: Nancy Clayman, Annie Garcy, Richard Horowitz, Phyllis Lowenthal, Richard Segal, Larry Westreich, Meryl Asher, Bob David, Mitch Dinnerstein, Arlene Kraus, Stephanie Lurie, Richard Polton, and Howard Solomon.

We also want to acknowledge and recognize with gratitude those officers and trustees leaving the board after years of service: Lisa Berlin, VP for Education; Sonia Rapaport, VP for Membership; Cliff Kahn, Steve Klein, and Sarah Segal. Marge Grayson, President, leaves the Executive Board, but as past president under our Constitution, has a permanent seat on our Board of Trustees. Likewise, Mark Perwien, former VP for Finance, has accepted a position as a trustee.

Yahrzeits

Shabbat - June 7

Charles W. Ange
Irving Baron
Mr Abraham Bass
Louis Breslow
Isidor Cooper
Sarah L. Eisinberg
Lillian Farkas
Charles W. Frankel
Charles Gerber
Alan Goldstein
Frances R. Guthman
Dr. Morris Harris
Herbert Heller
Bella Kalinkowitz
Lenore Leffler
Morris Lipkin
Sarah Lipkin
Rose Panichi
Ruth G. Pesner
Hyman Potofsky
Hyman Potofsky
Minnie Schomer
Harriet Schwartz
Mary Segal
Oscar L. Sherman
Rachel Singman
Rudi Strauss
Celia Turkewitz
Louis Weinberger
Melvin Wright
Eva Zeitlin

Shabbat - June 14

Paul Adler
William Altshuler
Gussie Baker
Beatrice Chipkin
Dorothy Fairman
Louis Gans
Ronald Geylin
Sidney Goldstein
Joseph Grossman
Philip Grundfest
Myrna Gurewitz
Sigmund Hecht
Corinna R. Hill
Harry Jacobs
Harry Kantor
Rose King
Rae Knoller
Anne L. Korn
George Levin
Fannie Linkoff
Daniel Messer
Kurt Meyer
Adele Olman
Emanuel Sachs
Eva Schreiber
Rosa Schreiber
Samuel Schreiber
Eric Segal

Rebecca A. Slifkin
George J. Solomon
Leon Solow
Samuel Wakstein
Sidney Wein
Cele Wien
Harry E. Wien
Sol Zenack

Shabbat - June 21

Fannie Altshuler
Otto August
Louis Berman
Mendall Bloom
Peter Bokat
Sidney Brand
Julius Fisher
Gertrude Frank
Gabriel Freedman
Bertie Golden
Sady Green
Morton Handler
Helene Heilbronner
Edith Hirsch
Samuel Jalowicz
Rae Kaplan
Harry Laufer
Marianne Levinsohn
Sylvia Levy
Max Olman
Lillian R. Pfeffer
Stanley H. Ross
Marjorie Samson
Harry Satin
Harry Schwartz
Morris Turkewitz
Sarah Waldman
Louis L. Wilson
Hyman Woletz
Marilyn Yeshlin

Shabbat - June 28,

Ida Abrahams
Arlene Baron
Mr. Simon Bauman
Sophie Carlin
Harry Cherashore
Henry Franklin
Harold N. Gaffin
Louis Glantz
Norman Goldstein
Murray Green
Barry Gutterman
Herman Haas
Bernard Hirsh
Jacob Katznelson
Max Kimmel
Irene Kolinski
Morris Levine
Edgar Loew
Minnie Lowenstein
Max Mezibov

Jacob Mishonek
Sadie Roth
Frank Scott
Dr. Leonard H.
Silverstein
Isaac H. Spitz
Ida Stelzer

Shabbat - July 5

Sadie R. Abrahams
Charles Abramson
Senta Barnard-
Jeserski
Arnold Cherashore
Alexander Elkin
Max Fink
Lillian Gash
David Grosser
Frieda Haut
Augusta G. Heller
Philip Hertzberg
Samuel Hochberg
Joseph Kaufman
George Lentz
Hannah Marger
Adolph Melcer
Seymour Melcer
Abraham I. Miller
Rose Miller
Thurman Nealis
Ruth Schmaltz
Jean Silberlust
Betty L. Solomon
Samuel Solomon
Arthur Stein
Charles Stern
Marian Unterman
Bertha K. Weiser
Yetta Wohl
Charles Ziff
Theodore Zubatkin

Shabbat - July 12,

Jeanne Abramson
Aaron Axelrod
Irving L. Bercowitz
Jesse Brenner
William A.
Brownstein
Isadore J. Cohen
Herbert Colie
Kenneth Colie
Mollie Convissor
Marion Czarowicz
Louis Diskin
Blanche Duboff
Bernard German
Yetta German
Bella M. Isaacs
Isadore Jackler
Eleanor G. Kohn
Michael Levee
Rita Miller
Adele Rapoport
Bertrand Sandweiss
Allan Segal

Dora Segal
Anna Solomon
Max Solomon
Nathan Solomon
Monya Sondok
Goldie Stadtmauer
Adolf Stelzer
Emily Stern
Murray Storch
Max Ulmer
Laura Wasserman
Gloria Weinstock
Nathan Wolf

Shabbat July 19

Sanford Cohen
Kimberly Colen-
Konigsberg
Milton Eatroff
Leon R. Elsohn
Demetrios Flessas
Walter Furst
Max Gershon
Isaac Greene
Irving Griff
Ike H. Guarnaccia
Henry Haller
Mollie Handler
Anne Katz
Dora Koppel
P. L. Lempert
Saul Maybee
Bela Molnar
Ida Okun
James R. Owens
Rose G. Rachles
Mollie Ratner Leff
Martha Roth
Emanuel S.
Rothenberg
Seymour Sanger
Louis Sarlin
Maurice Schaffer
Terry E. Siegel
Adele Solomon
Louis Stromfeld
Jacob Waldman
Rose Weinberger

Shabbat July 26

Mildred Abramson
Morris Appell
Rose Aronson

Fannie Bellet
Dora Brownstein
Ludwig J. Crane
Irene Czarowicz
Shirley Daniels
Jack Davidson
Rebecca Dinnerman
Frances Elkin
Ida Elkin
Celia Fisch
Shimon Friedman
Fred Goldstein
Esther Heller
Phillip N. Helman
Deborah Lang
Celia Marvin
Rose Miller
Rose Richter
Robert Schur
Sarah Silberman
Sidney Steinlauf
Hinda R. Turkewitz
Benjamin Weiser
Kenneth L. Wyatt
Herman W. Yecies

Shabbat - August 2

Susan Bartkowski
Joel A. Baum
Charles Blatt
Judith E. Dinnerstein
Anna Donenfeld
Samuel Eisinberg
Aaron Grundfest
Stephen M. Harris
Max Hirsch
Basha Hurwood
Beatrice L. Huwood
Herman Jackler
Max Kaplan
Louis Kramer
Mary G. Krieger
Sylvia Levkoff Katz
Barbara Messner
Eugene Ogur
Mollie Paur
Jennie Rubin
Irma Sherman
Marie Solomon
Dr. Robert Sutton
Leonard Weiss

Shabbat - August 9

Charles Beckwith
Charles Bendet
Frank Bloom
David Cooper
Pearl Fagin
Eve Friedman
Sylvia Gaffin
Frieda Horowitz
David Horowitz
Isadore Jasik
Ann Keyles
Sol J. Levey
Louis Manzbach
Joseph Moseson



Isadore Nathanson
Benjamin Price
Helen Schaefer
Linda A. Schreiner
Benjamin Shapiro
Solomon Shuster
Fannie Spitz
Morris Stein
Walter Strauss
Dr. William Taffet
Joseph Turen
Lillian Ungerleider
Sidney Wasser

Bette Spitz
Irma Strauss
Ruth Tennen
Philip Weiss
Sidney Wiesner

Shabbat - August 23
Samuel M. Anisfield
Nathan Borofsky
Gilbert Canter
Murray Davidson
Bertha Dunn
Jacob Fish

James Patrician
Arlene Kaufman
Ruth Sandler
Harry Stavis
Herbert Stein
Edward Teitelbaum
Marion Wanless
Michael Wein
Harold Ziman

Shabbat - August 30
Fred Abramson
Leah K. Baum
Blance Bergoffen
Harold Cohen
David Feldstein
Harold Glazer
Rhoda Lang
Philip Levoff
Barbara Mazur
Lois Menkes
Samuel Pfeffer
Marian Roth
Louis Schwartz
Jennie I. Spitz
Howard Sweetwood
Sara Wax
Joseph Weinstock

Yahrzeits continued

Shabbat - August 16

Manuel Abrams
Seymour Berger
Rose Blaufarb
Jules Braunstein
Joseph Cohen
Minnie Glantz
Samuel S. Goldsticker
Miriam Grossman
Gertrude Gutterman
Leonard Kahn
Helen Lester
Joseph Levenson
Richard Pimes
Sarah Ring
Minnie S. Sanger
Richard Sax

Martha Goldstein
Dr. Archie Handler
Paula Hirsch
Albert Hochberg
Nathan Holland
Sarah Holland
Ilene Kaplan Corte
Jack Kramer
Lilly Krischer
Aaron Levine
Anna Levoff
Ida Lipton
Lottie Marger
Margaret Marks
Philip Mintz
Herbert Neifeld
Zoltan Neuman

KEHILLA CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

The Temple thanks the following people who have made pledges and/or contributions to the Kehilla campaign as of May 19, 2002. We have topped \$1,000,000! Please participate and send us your pledge! Thank you for helping to make our Kehilla Campaign and dreams a reality.

David & Tamara Abramson
Jed & Lori Beitler
Tim Carden & Amy Rosen
Steve & Dianna Chipkin
Maxwell & Shirley Cobert
Roger Cohen & Deborah Jerome-Cohen
Ruth Cohen
George & Lois Davis
Fred Duchin & Mindy Propper
Woody Eisenberg & Ellen Silver
Jean Ellis
Arthur Fagin & Sonia Rapaport
Tom Fraioli and Eve Robinson
Harry & Diana Friedland
Mark & Joanne Friedman
Martha Fritz
Don Garber & Betsy Lembeck
Steve Goldberg

Paul & Marge Grayson
Gladys Green
Leonard & Michele Grodner
Rob & Stacey Hammerling
Scott & Eileen Harwood
Julius & Fran Hirsch
Richard & Diane Horowitz
Alan & Jill Johnson
Barry Judelman
Lanny & Susan Katz
Andrew & Jane Kessler
Steven Klein & Nancy Barbe
Steven Leeds & Rachel Hott
Josh & Ronni Levering
Mark & Stephanie Lurie
Arthur & Jodi Meisler
Kenneth Moore & Lee Guest-Moore
Elinor Neifeld

Mark Perwien & Laurie Goodman
Steven Plofker & Bobbi Brown
Richard & Bobbie Polton
Mark & Jody Rakov
Jerome & Marisabel Raymond
Robert & Judith Rich
Bernard & Lois Rosenkrantz
Don & Ruth Sarlin
Roger & Sarah Segal
Robert & Paula Stein
Seymour Taffet
Deyna Vesey
Ira & Denise Wagner
Emil & Tamar Weiss
Josh & Judy Weston
Larry & Lisa Westreich

What's New On This Year's Ner Tamid Bill?

Every June brings crowds to the town pools, seersucker out of the closet, the Temple's new fiscal year, and the first Temple bill reflecting the new year's dues schedule. This year, though, something's different. Actually, two things are different.

Plastic: This year you will be able to pay your dues and Religious School tuition using Mastercard or Visa. Should you wish to use this option, just find a spot to write your credit card number and expiration date on the top portion of the bill. If you also indicate that you want to make credit card payments over time, our accounting office will automatically bill your credit card on a slightly different schedule than we use for cash payments: three equal charges on the first of August, November, and March. Please consider that credit card processing costs the Temple 2.2% of your payment.

Israel: Also new this year, the Board of Trustees asks you to consider a voluntary commitment to our other spiritual home, Israel. On your dues invoice, there is a line for ARZA/WORLD UNION, North America's \$36 annual family membership fee. ARZA/WORLD UNION works to build Reform Judaism all over the world, in Israel and the former Soviet Union and 40 other countries where Jews live. They strengthen our voice in working for democracy, civil rights and religious freedom and pluralism. We urge you to join ARZA/WORLD UNION by paying the \$36 Membership included on your Temple bill. If you do not wish to do so, just cross out the charge on your bill.

What is Beyachad?

Beyachad means "together" in Hebrew. This year, for the first time, Ner Tamid will provide families with a way to worship together as a family. Beyachad is an opportunity for a family with a 3rd through 6th grader (and their siblings) to share the joy and wonder of the High Holidays during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning, in a more relaxed, interactive experience.

Our program will offer experiential worship with song, study, prayer and interactive family discussion. Our service will consist of a traditional High Holy Day liturgy and torah reading. All prayers, however, will be transliterated, and music will be congregational and accompanied by guitar. Dress is casual, and the service is accessible to all. Shofar will be blown and apples and honey will be served on Rosh Hashanah.

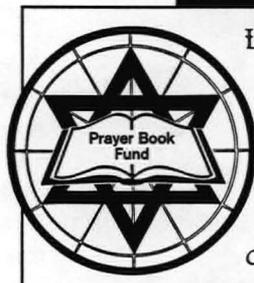
The service will be shorter than our main sanctuary service, and will run parallel to it in a large, comfortable tent from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on the First Day of Rosh Hashanah (September 7th) and on the morning of Yom Kippur (September 16th).

Look for more information on registration soon!

New Membership Directory

An updated and revised Temple Ner Tamid Membership Directory is now available for members at the Temple Office. The Membership Directory includes information about the programs and services available and an alphabetical listing of members with home numbers and addresses. All of this is contained in a laminated loose-leaf binder, which is why the Directory isn't being mailed. Members who are homebound should call the office to make arrangements to receive the updated Directory.

ENGAGEMENTS • WEDDINGS • B'NAI MITZVAHS



LOOKING FOR A GREAT WAY TO
ACKNOWLEDGE LOVED ONES AND
COMMEMORATE SPECIAL EVENTS?

*For only \$36, a personalized book plate on the inside cover
of new prayer books establishes lasting recognition and supports
the fund to replace old prayer books. It's a Double Mitzvah!*

Call or come to the Temple Office for more information.

BIRTHS • GRADUATIONS • CONFIRMATIONS

Supporting the TNT Kehilla Campaign: Creative Ways to Contribute

Temple Ner Tamid is about community. It's a place to pray, gather, learn and grow, a place to share our joys and sorrows. The *Kehilla* Campaign is about building our community into a true center of Jewish life and learning so we can continue to do these things better, more often and with more creativity.

Our community has grown. In 1995 TNT had a membership of approximately 375 families and 200 religious school students. Today, we have over 500 families and the religious school has doubled, to 400 students — and we are still growing!

While our community continues to grow, our community space hasn't grown and our staff's calendars are filled to the max. We know we can provide an even better, more nurturing environment for our community by achieving our *Kehilla* Campaign goals. That is why we need everyone's help this time, why we are asking EVERY member of our community to make a contribution towards our future as a vibrant Jewish community.

Here are a few creative ways to fund your contribution to the *Kehilla* effort, without having to dip into your monthly cash-flow or your personal savings account. As always, be sure to speak with your tax advisor first:

Use appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. Give them directly to TNT so you won't have to pay any capital gains taxes.

Be sure to find out if your employer has any matching gift program that you could tap into — why not let them help you complete your pledge?

If you have "depreciated" stock, you may get a double tax benefit by 1) selling the investment (you capture a capital loss that you can use against capital gains) and then 2) donating the cash proceeds (giving you a charitable deduction). Consult your tax advisor.

Remember, you can take 5 years to fulfill your pledge. So whatever amount you feel comfortable pledging, divide that pledge by 5, and it's not so intimidating. A \$10,000 pledge becomes \$2,000 per year, or about \$167/month.

Finally consider dedicating a part of the project as a way to honor a special individual or memorialize a loved one, to celebrate a simcha, or to commemorate your family's involvement with TNT.

We are off to a good start in reaching our goal of \$1,750,000 to expand programs and add space. But we are now at a critical point: we need to finalize plans for the construction, and we really can't do that until we know how much money we will have.

That's why we need to receive pledges as soon as possible.

You should have received a brochure and pledge form in the mail describing the details of the campaign. They are also available in the temple lobby. David Abramson, Marge Grayson, Rabbi Kushner and all the Vice Chairs are available to answer your questions. We ask that you support the *Kehilla* Campaign in any way you can. ■

our role, we can never view Ner Tamid as an institutional "it" — nor view ourselves merely as its customers.

Here is my challenge. You have joined Ner Tamid. How have you chosen to be a distinct part of a whole? We are all members in a community with mitzvot — imperatives that define our community's role. *I call on each of you to find — or help create — the Ner Tamid mitzvot that are most meaningful to you.*

Please look through this issue of Temple Topics to see some examples of opportunities to find distinct Ner Tamid mitzvot. If you haven't already done so, pick up a copy of the new Ner Tamid directory at the temple office. Spend the next few weeks looking over the directory and Topics. Then pick up the phone and call any officer or board member if you have questions or ideas. Each of us is prepared to tell you about our own particular mitzvot — the imperatives that resonate within us.

Over the summer, we will communicate more about getting involved. You may receive a phone call from a fellow Ner Tamid member asking you to take on a mitzvah challenge — to find and act upon a community imperative that personally inspires and challenges you. These mitzvot may involve committee work, or they may involve individual "one-off" activities that have a distinct beginning and end.

Two possible places to find your Ner Tamid mitzvot

As a starting point, I encourage you to consider two committees that are a significant part of what makes Ner Tamid special. These are but two of many ways to get involved.

The Adult Education committee is being chaired by Roger Segal (973-233-0554). Working with Roger on programs to bring in guest teachers and speakers is Richard Polton (973-783-0137), who also serves on Ner Tamid's board. The committee is beginning its work right now on planning classes, lectures, workshops, guest scholars on the bimah, adult b'nai mitzvah classes, and other lifelong Jewish learning programs. Call Roger or Richard if this might be one way to act upon your personal mitzvot.

The Outreach committee is chaired by Jean Siegel and Peter Janulis (973-429-3515). In addition, Richie Horowitz (973-338-6940) is on the Ner Tamid board and is going to be working with Jean and Peter. Outreach is a program developed more than 20 years ago by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). At Ner Tamid (which is a UAHC member), the Outreach group focuses on the needs of members who care about issues related to interfaith families, raising children Jewishly and conversion. Programs include education, roundtables, special Shabbat activities, and informal gatherings and opportunities to share ideas. Give Jean, Peter or Richie a call if Outreach is where you can do your Ner Tamid mitzvot.

Thank you for your commitment to the Ner Tamid community. ■

Bob Adler
radleris@comcast.net
973-509-8459

the program—an incredible number of 115—were eligible for and invited to a celebratory dinner. We started a program this past year to assess children with learning issues and to try to come up with plans to assist them.

For those of you who do not have b'nai mitzvah age students, you should know that our kids do a huge amount of work beyond learning their portions. They must participate in 13 mitzvot and discuss them in a journal. They participate in numerous meetings with the Rabbi and Cantor, both in groups and individually. Our program is becoming a model for many other congregations; we have sent our b'nai mitzvah manual around the country, going as far as to Fairbanks, Alaska.

Our Nursery School, Shores, continues to be popular. It is infused with a Jewish curriculum, and is the entryway to the synagogue for large numbers of families.

Adult Ed was very well attended this past year. We anticipate continuing a special lecture series, although it may be Sunday mornings next year, rather than Sunday evenings.

Our Youth Groups remain very popular and vibrant. The Senior Youth Group recently hosted the region's elections, and as the only Reform Youth group in the area continues to attract students from throughout the area.

Our Seniors Group which is also a regional group is one of the largest and probably the most active group in the Metrowest region of NJ.

As for activities, we try to infuse all of them with our Jewish values. Our Purimspiel now involves over 50 participants and attracts 400 viewers. Our Havdalah cafes have brought in more than 200 people each time (and don't forget that we're having a NJR&B dance concert on June 15th). All our holiday celebrations attract numerous people. And while I know I'm leaving tons of things out, I have to say that our volunteers including officers, trustees, committee members and people who volunteer for jobs large and small help to make this a true community.

A major program which has recently started is SEI or Synagogue Education Incubator. This will analyze the way we educate in our community and to see if there are ways that all of us would like to see education to be.

This of course segues into our Kehilla Campaign. I know all of you have received brochures and other communications on our campaign. You know that we are hoping to expand the building in the front to give us a new and additional large group room surrounding a courtyard. This will give us additional space for alternative services, adult ed, and life cycle events, with the possibility of breakdown for classrooms. Because of the slope of the front of the property, we will be able to have a full basement at very little additional cost which will accommodate 3 classrooms with windows at normal height. We also intend to devote some space to a youth lounge. The plans are still under way and going through constant modifications to be reasonably priced and to meet our needs.

The big news on our campaign is that we have, to date, exceeded \$1,000,000 in pledges and contributions from about 10% of the congregation. Interestingly, over half of the contributions to date are from families who were not members during our last campaign, although people who were here then are being extremely generous as well. Our original goal was \$1.75 million, but we are now hopeful that we will reach \$2,000,000. I hope you will help us reach this goal. We are planning some phonothons coming up. Many contributions are \$1/day for 5 years for \$1800 or \$5000 at \$1000 per year. Of course, larger and smaller contributions are greatly appreciated.

As our professional fundraisers are leaving us, I will be taking over the pushing and prodding and office aspects of this campaign. I along with everyone else who is so committed to the future of our Temple, hope you will participate in this program and reduce the amount of pushing and prodding that I have to do. And if you'd like to help on any basis, please see me.

I end this by saying we are proceeding with all of these things and planning others even throughout the summer; don't forget Rosh Hashonah is the weekend after Labor Day, so the Temple will be extremely busy throughout the summer.

It has been a great honor and privilege to be your president for the past 3 years. The Temple is a central part of my life, and I thank you for your support and hope it can be as important to you as it is to me and to my family. Honestly, this has been one of the best experiences of my life. May we continue from strength to strength. ■

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.

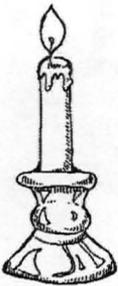
Special Israel Zimriyah (Sing-a-long) with Cantor Levitt and the TNT Choir

Join Cantor Levitt and the TNT Choir on June 21st for a special Shabbat service celebrating Israel in song. Cantor Levitt, who is flying back from Israel the night before the service, will share her experiences as a delegate to the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem from earlier in the week. Our wonderful choir will lead us in Israeli favorites like: "Tzena, Tzena", "Bashana Haba'a" and "Yerushalaim shel Zahav" as well as special choral arrangements. All are encouraged to come show their support for Israel and love of Israeli songs which strengthen us and give us hope!

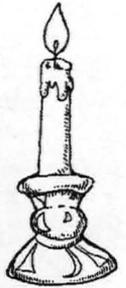
NJRB Dance Party

On Saturday, June 15 at 8 p.m. come to the Temple for the "New Jersey Rhythm & Blues Revue." Tickets are available through the Temple office for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Refreshments are included.

Summer Candle Lighting Times



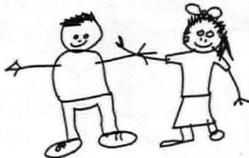
June 7 . . . 8:07 p.m.	July 5 . . . 8:13 p.m.	August 2 . . . 7:53 p.m.
June 14 . . . 8:11 p.m.	July 12 . . . 8:10 p.m.	August 9 . . . 7:45 p.m.
June 21 . . . 8:13 p.m.	July 19 . . . 8:06 p.m.	August 16 . . . 7:36 p.m.
June 28 . . . 8:14 p.m.	July 26 . . . 8:00 p.m.	August 23 . . . 7:25 p.m.
		August 30 . . . 7:15 p.m.



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