

Temple
Rodeph
Torah **NEWS**
תורה ודעה

APRIL 2008

ADAR II/NISSAN, 5768

FROM RABBI WEBER

The beginning of the *Haggadah* reads:
“We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and Adonai freed us from Egypt with a mighty hand. Had not the Holy One, praised be God, delivered our people from Egypt, then we, our children and our children’s children would still be enslaved.”

After Pharaoh, we were enslaved to the Babylonians. And the Romans. And the Crusaders. And the Poles. And Russians. And Nazis. As the old joke goes, every Jewish holiday has three themes: They tried to kill us. They didn’t succeed. Let’s eat!

The theme of Pesach – freedom – comes to mind every year as I watch our 10th graders make their way through the halls of Congress, to meet with staff members of Senators Lautenberg and Menendez and Representatives Holt and Pallone. Full members of the people of the United States. Americans. Citizens. The complete and total fulfillment of their ancestors hopes, dreams and prayers.

Imagine if we could go back just three generations, to talk with the great-grandparents of these students. Most of them would have just come off the boat, and would be struggling to learn a new language, adapt to a new culture and cope with the loss of everything and everyone they left behind. They would be wondering if they had made the right choice, and whether they would succeed, or fail, or die unnoticed in this new world. Now, imagine this conversation:

“I want to show you a picture of your future great-granddaughter or great-grandson. Look, there she/he is, standing in front of the Supreme Court of the United States, together with 20 other Jewish students from their *shul* in New Jersey. Yes, you will have great-grandchildren. Yes, they will be Jewish. Yes, they will go to a *shul*, although they will call it a temple and it will be a little different from what you knew back home. But yes, they will go to a *shul*.”

SPECIAL EVENTS

**12th GRADE GRADUATION /
TEACHER APPRECIATION
SHABBAT – April 4**

**SISTERHOOD BUNCO NIGHT –
April 9**

**NEW DRIVER BLESSINGS /
WICKER CHURCH VISITS – April 11**

**YISHAR KOACH CELEBRATION –
April 18**

**PESACH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN –
April 19**

**NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL – April 20-
21**

**7TH DAY PESACH & YISKOR
SERVICE – April 26**

**PESACH ENDS AT SUNDOWN –
April 26 (Orthodox observe until
April 27)**

TRT GOLF TOURNAMENT – April 28

**A “MUST-READ” ARTICLE FOR
EVERY PARENT AND
GRANDPARENT – See Page 3**

continued next page

“What are they doing in Washington, DC? They just worked in the offices of their senators and representatives, urging them to vote to help the homeless, to guarantee civil rights, to protect the environment and to support Israel (yes, Israel is now a country – amazing world they live in, no?). And they didn’t just go there as citizens – they went as *Jewish* citizens. Really! They told their congresspeople that they are Jewish, and that their Jewish values affect how they live.

“Were they thrown out? No, they were thanked. And complimented. And the staff members explained what the congresspeople were going to do about the problems the students discussed.

“They are citizens, your great-grandchildren. American citizens. *Jewish* American citizens.

“It’s okay to cry. Tears of joy are good tears.”

We have been taking our 10th graders to the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism for 20 years now. I keep wondering when it will become routine for me, but it never has. The program is similar from year to year, but the students are never the same. Each year, we bring 10 or 20 or more of our next generation to learn about how to be good, Jewish Americans, and each year we bring back 10 or 20 or more citizens. It is the best thing that Temple Rodeph Torah does, and I am very, very proud to be part of it.

Many of our past Confirmands have gone into law or politics because of their experience at the RAC. Many more have become politically active in their high school, college and community. All of them have come home from Washington with an understanding of how blessed they are to live in a place where an ordinary person, and ordinary Jew, can walk into the government of the most powerful nation in history and have an effect on how it acts.

I hope you will take a minute to look at the picture of our students standing in front of the Supreme Court; it is posted on the Religious School bulletin board. If you look very closely, you will see their great-grandparents smiling alongside them.

Shira, Noah, Ari and Eytan, together with all our ancestors, join me in wishing you a happy and healthy *Pesach*—our Festival of Freedom.

Shalom,
Rabbi Don Weber

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GUEST COLUMN

Rabbi Lester Bronstein, Temple Bet Am Shalom, White Plains, NY

At Rabbi Weber's request, Rabbi Bronstein shares this column from his congregation's newsletter. We hope every parent and grandparent will take its message to heart.

"Kum Gezunt"

We don't have to tell our children and grandchildren to get out of the house and go places. They'll go on their own volition, thank you. That's a sure bet.

It's also a sure bet that they will treat our inevitable admonition to "Be careful" as so much parental yapping. We're programmed to say, "Be careful," and they're programmed to say, "Aw c'mon."

If they're too careful, they won't get out much. They won't make friends. They won't learn to negotiate danger or respond to challenge. They won't enjoy the experience of getting lost and finding their way back. They won't make relationships - and there goes our future.

A startling midrash tells us that when God peers out over creation and declares it "*tov m'od*," "very good," the "very" is the *yetzer hara* or "evil inclination" at work in the world. But how, asks the midrash, can the evil inclination be "good"? Because without that *yetzer* - that urge to go out and shake things up - no one would engage in business or build a home or take a spouse or propagate.

Brilliant. And when you reach a ripe old age and your descendents crowd around your rocking chair or even your death bed, you can savor that idea like the bouquet of a vintage wine. But when tragedy strikes, and it is we who stand together around the hospital bed or, God forbid, the grave of a tender youth, our philosophical musing does us little good. At that point we need comfort, and absolutely nothing but.

My dear brother's younger daughter Kate lost her life in a car crash in November. She was only nineteen. Neither drugs nor alcohol nor even reckless speed killed her. No one else in the car was badly hurt. The randomness of it all was mind-boggling. She was a kid who got out a lot and even took risks - *and she was careful*. And still she's gone.

Her risks involved trusting people. She would bring home disadvantaged kids from her high school, and convince my brother and his wife to buy them school supplies or clothing, or pay their field trip fees, or give them rides to try-outs in out-of-town places. She would befriend fellow students whom no one else talked to. A month before her death, she started a campus-wide collection at her college for a California student whose home had been destroyed by the October fires. (She apparently hadn't even met the student.)

She was too short to be taken seriously as a volleyball player, yet she competed triumphantly through high school and beyond. She fell in love with art and art history, and also with international politics. No one could tell her not to go in both directions simultaneously. For her, "focusing" meant trying it all, doing it all. It meant getting to know every person she could possibly meet. It meant giving each acquaintance a feeling of being admired and affirmed. Remarkable, unstoppable energy. The *yetzer*, harnessed for the good. That was Kate. When her vital organs were harvested and distributed to grateful recipients, the joke in our family was that these people were going to have a hard time keeping up with their new high-octane body parts.

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Without question, her fatal end gives us parents pause anew. Do we let our kids learn to drive? To go away for a weekend? To study abroad? Yes, we say, but we almost wish we could say no, at least once in a while.

“Yes,” then, may be the word that distinguishes people of faith from those without it. Our children need to explore their world, and our stifling them only encourages them to do it in potentially self-destructive ways. We need to find the encouraging word “yes” deep within our frightened selves in order to convey the blessing of life upon our offspring. We need to believe they will come back alive, all the while knowing that they might not.

For years I have used the Yiddish expression “*gey gezunt und kum gezunt*,” “go in good health and come in good health.” It trips off the tongue like an old chestnut. I never thought about the order of the words. I always meant it as a quaint send-off. Now I understand it as an act of faith.

Gey gezunt – “go in good health” – is superfluous. You’re going whether we like it or not. *Kum gezunt* – “come back in good health” – is the point of the phrase. In other words, I’m sending you out with no reservations, because I believe that you’ll come back safely. If I didn’t believe that, then I couldn’t let you go, and thus I couldn’t let you truly live. So, go with my blessings *because* you’ll return with blessings bigger than anything I can confer upon you.

Psalm 121, another old chestnut, is often invoked by persons searching for confidence in the face of crisis. “I lift my eyes to the heavens,” it goes. “Whence comes my help?” That may be the famous part of the text, but I’ve discovered that for me, it’s not the most important. Rather, it’s the ending that now speaks to me. “The Eternal will guard your going and coming from this time forth.” Again, the message is in the order of the words. The teleology of the poem/prayer is that the wanderer will indeed come home in one piece. “I can’t control for that outcome,” says the psalmist. “But I have to believe in it.”

For Kate’s parents, much of their comfort has come from knowing that they blessed their child with nineteen years of encouragement. They sent her off, day after day, with the faith she needed to encounter her world and blossom into it. Blossom she did. Encounter she did. She touched lives, and her parents’ blessing is what made it possible. If someone needs a model of faith in these faithless times, I’d say this is one worth keeping.

Rabbi Lester Bronstein



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- Friday, 4/4 - Family Shabbat Service – 7:30 p.m.
**GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR OUR 12TH GRADE
 TEACHER APPRECIATION SHABBAT** for Nursery School, Religious
 School and *Morehhsha*
 ☆ Birthday Blessings for April; Candle Lighting 7:07 p.m.
- Saturday, 4/5 - Shabbat Morning Services – 10:00 a.m. *Minyan* Group.
 Bar Mitzvah: Brett Friedman
- Friday, 4/11 - Shabbat Services:
 7:00 p.m. – “Very Young People’s Shabbat” (20 minutes, for pre-readers)
 8:00 p.m. – Service
**JOIN US AS WE WELCOME OUR FRIENDS FROM THE WICKER
 MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**
Blessing for New Drivers
 Sermon: “The Work of Freedom”
 Candle Lighting 7:14 p.m.
- Saturday, 4/12 - Shabbat Morning Services – 10:00 a.m. *Minyan* Group.
 B’nai Mitzvah: Samuel Sugarman and Ryan Zukoff
- Friday, 4/18 - Shabbat Service – 8:00 p.m.
***YISHAR KOACH: Bonnie Friedland and Alyse Gleitman celebrate the
 anniversary of becoming Bat Mitzvah***
 Candle Lighting 7:21 p.m.
- Saturday, 4/19 - Shabbat Morning Service – 10:00 a.m. *Minyan* Group.

***** PESACH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN ON SATURDAY, 4/19**

- Friday, 4/25 - Shabbat / 7th Day Pesach Service – 8:00 p.m.
 Sermon: “Microwave Judaism”
Meshorerim, our Religious School Choir, will sing
 ☆ **Anniversary Blessings for April**; Candle Lighting 7:29 p.m.
- Saturday, 4/26 - Shabbat Morning Service and Yiskor for Pesach – 10:00 a.m.

***** PESACH ENDS AT SUNDOWN ON SATURDAY, 4/26
 (Orthodox observe until sundown on Sunday, 4/27)**

Please call the temple office if you know of any temple member who is ill, or who has been admitted to the hospital. We want to visit and offer our help, but we cannot help unless we know about them!

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EDUCATION

From the Desk of Rabbi Shira Stern:

I like to think of us as the “Show Me” school.

From Missouri, the original “Show Me” state, I learned that the origin of the phrase is most often attributed to Missouri's Willard Duncan Vandiver, who served in the United States House of Representatives. Vandiver attended an 1899 naval banquet in Philadelphia. In a speech there, he declared, "I come from a state that raises corn and cotton and cockleburs and Democrats, and frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me."

We at Temple Rodeph Torah live by that same rule.

We teach, we assign readings and homework and all that good stuff, but after that, we believe the doing is as critical an exercise to the learning process as are simply listening and reading. When the 4th graders learn about Israel, they take a “virtual trip,” complete with suitcases and passports and sand from the Dead Sea. Our 5th graders participated in a mock wedding – with *huppah* and brides and grooms and wedding cake - and later next month they will take a trip to the cemetery to learn about Jewish end-of-life customs. Our 5th and 6th graders had a *Tu Bishvat seder*, and every child in school planted his/her own parsley to celebrate spring and prepare for Passover. Kindergarten through 3rd grade came in pajamas one Sunday to learn about Jewish bedtime rituals, and decorated their own *Sh'ma* pillows to reinforce the lesson at home.

Everyone in school is in the midst of our “Go Green” campaign, each grade with a different responsibility. They will write lesson plans, make recycling containers, write and distribute ways we can bring a respect for God’s gift to us into our homes. This school project will culminate in a *shul*-wide trip to New York to walk in the 60th anniversary of Israel parade, complete with posters about conserving Israel’s precious natural resources.

continued next page

Since our 7th graders are learning about the Holocaust, they were taught an object lesson when Senator Tom Lantos died last month. Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress, began his life in Europe and continued for 27 years in public service as a champion of human rights. In Mrs. Klein's class, our students have written letters of condolence to the Lantos family, some of which I have included below.

Dear Lantos Family:

I have been recently learning about the Holocaust and my Hebrew School watched a movie on Congressman Tom. I was stunned at how much Tom went through and he gave back to America after his harsh times in Europe. I'm so sorry that Mr. Lantos passed away. Mr. Lantos really made a mark in society. That is why he is going to be a remembered man!

Best regards, Greg Duval

Dear Lantos Family:

... We watched *The Last Days*, a movie by the Shoah Foundation. All the stories told by Holocaust survivors inspired me but Congressman Lantos really impacted my view of the Holocaust... When I think of him, I think of the only Holocaust survivor ever in the U.S. Congress. He could have been anything he wanted, but he decided to be a congressman, and became the Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee. He decided to help the country that saved his life... We just lost an extraordinary man. He stood for everything a person should. He made a change in people's lives, not just because he was a congressman, but also because he stood for equality and justice.

Sincerely, Alaina Galiano

Dear Lantos Family:

... When Congress Tom Lantos spoke (in *The Last Days*), I felt a connection to how he felt. I was inspired when he was able to help the people who needed help. I am extremely sorry for your loss, but I am extremely proud of what he was able to do for Jews and others that needed help. I find it amazing that after both Congressman Tom Lantos and other family members went through, you were able to rebuild your family...

Always, Carly Goldstein

Dear Lantos Family:

I know that one of your family members has just passed away. I am deeply sorry for this loss. He is someone I admire. He was the only congressman of the USA who had been a Holocaust survivor. Even after that tragic moment in his life, he devoted his life to educating people about the Holocaust...

Sincerely, Matt Goldman

Dear Lantos Family:

I am very sorry for your loss... Tom was a great person and I feel that he was very brave ... I didn't know him. Being Jewish, I was always afraid of it happening to me but now that I have heard his story, I feel more comfortable knowing about the people who survived it. I loved how he always listened to his mom and respected her... [The fact that] he also had 17 grandchildren was very inspiring. Tom Lantos really touched me. I am very sorry and I feel for you very much.

Sincerely, Michelle Joseph

Dear Lantos Family:

My name is Jay Kasakove. I'm a 7th grader at Temple Rodeph Torah Hebrew School. I am sorry for your loss... Hearing Tom Lantos' story really made me think about what actually happened during the Holocaust. Just from seeing Mr. Lantos in the movie showed me what a great person and Jew he was.

Our students have indeed understood how to translate lessons into actions – and learning into words of loving kindness and support.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Shira Stern

ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Education Committee believes it is important that our Jewish teenagers have the opportunity to experience a trip to Israel. A trip to Israel is one of the best ways for teens to explore their Jewish heritage, strengthen their Jewish identity, and make a permanent connection to Judaism.

We would like to remind the congregation about the Israel Scholarship Fund. The money that accumulates in this fund is used to provide financial support to any of our Confirmands who participate in an approved youth trip to Israel. Contributions to the Israel Scholarship Fund can be for any amount, and are a wonderful way to remember a birthday, graduation, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, or any other special occasion.

Who is eligible for an Israel Scholarship?

Any Confirmand, up through and including the summer after 12th grade, can receive assistance from the Israel Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is not need-based; it is a merit scholarship awarded to any student who has been confirmed and is going on an approved youth trip to Israel.

When should you make your request for a scholarship?

A minimum of two months before the student's departure to Israel, a request should be made in writing to the Education Committee. Please provide documentation of the student's enrollment in an Israel trip program.

How much money is awarded?

Money in the Israel Scholarship Fund will be equally divided among all eligible students traveling to Israel that year. The amount of money will not exceed \$1,000 per student. The amount given to each student is based on the amount of money in the fund as of May 31 and will be distributed in June.

The Education Committee looks forward to the time when many of our Confirmands travel to Israel with the help of the Israel Scholarship Fund. We appreciate the congregation's generosity in considering the Israel Scholarship Fund when making a donation to the temple.

If you have any further questions about the Israel Scholarship Fund, please contact Ellen Finkelstein, at 732-972-8624, or at ellenstf@gmail.com.

NURSERY SCHOOL

We spent our March days making groggers, *shalach manot* baskets, baking hamentaschen and tie-dying T-shirts for our Purim celebration. We wore our beautiful T-shirts and crowns as we sang Purim songs for our parents and grandparents. Then we ate our delicious chocolate chip hamentaschen.

continued next page

The weather was warm enough for us to play outside and make chalk drawings. We are looking forward to spring.

Ms. Ellen and Ms. Randi

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

We had a wonderful *Shabbaton* weekend in February. We learned all about angels and how angels can be a part of our daily spiritual life. I would like to thank Rabbi Shira Stern and Cantor Jacquie for creating our services for the weekend. Thank you to Charlie Pearlman for allowing us to use his beautiful angel song. I would also like to thank Janet Crain-Klemons for the use of her home for a wonderful Shabbat dinner and Sheryl Cooper for a delicious breakfast at her home Saturday morning. Thanks to Maxine Perlman, Una Tedoff, Pam Brisman, Nina Grossman, Shelley Willner, Sue Stier, Ellen Levine, Marcia Borshof, Sharon Aptaker and Michelle Bookbinder for all their help. Thanks to Karen Joseph and Shira Stern for leading the services. The *Shabbaton* is a wonderful group effort and cannot happen without everyone's assistance.

Also, a great time was had by all at Club Mud decorating candlesticks in March.

Finally, in preparation for our "wine" theme for next year, I am starting to collect money from all women who are interested in making wine. It is a several-step process which will begin in May (days and times to follow) and will continue throughout the following nine months. You do NOT have to be present for each step. The cost is \$10 per bottle, payable NOW. Please send your checks, payable to Temple Rodeph Torah Women's Spirituality, c/o TRT. Please indicate it is for wine making. If there are any questions, please contact Suzie Hershman, at 732-933-1562, or suziehershman@yahoo.com. Hope to see you at our next event!

Suzie Hershman

SISTERHOOD

Thank you to everyone who supported our successful Art Auction. We all had a great time, and I hope everyone who purchased art is enjoying it. I know Steve and I love our new artwork.

A special thank you to Marcia Borshof, Marla Bucher, Gabrielle Eichel, Karen Goldstein, Ellen Levine, Ellen Pearlman, Bonnie Sugarman, David Honig, Jake Roffe, Alex Bigelson, Alli Davis and Jacqui Levine for all your help throughout the evening.

We want to send a special thank you to the following people and businesses for supporting the auction with a donation: Foodtown, Shoprite, Wegman's, Bagel World, Huddy's Restaurant, Fresh Petals, Simply Invited, Marcy Eberbach, Walt Disney Co., Lola's, Jesse & David's Kosher Experience, Denny's Children's Clothes, DeScotties Hair Salon, Metromemories, Jerry and Harvey's Deli, Simply Invited, Avatar Spa, White Lamb Cleaners, Ellen Levine, Joan Nulman, Marla Bucher, Personal Touch Cleaners, Rona Shukofsky, Cambridge Liquor and Wine Shoppe, Face to Face, Snack Exchange, Overland Travelware, Romeo's Restaurant and Pizza, and Auntie Ellyn's Biscotti.

Please mark your calendars and save the date for our next Bunco Night, always a wonderful fun evening. It will be Wednesday evening, April 9th, 2008.

Shalom,
Jodi Weintraub

MEMBERSHIP

I'd like to remind everyone that the next Open House is Sunday, May 4th, from 10-11:30 a.m. Babysitting will be available. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining a temple, please provide me with their name, address, and phone number and I'd be happy to contact them about our congregation and the Open House.

Don't forget to tell them what a wonderful experience you are having at TRT! Encourage them to attend a Friday night service, and do a *mitzvah*: attend along with them and introduce them to your friends at the temple.

We have a new policy with regards to membership here at TRT. Did you know that if you are a Full or Senior Member, your parents and grandparents can join the temple for \$180 a year for a couple, and \$90 for a single? Now you can all worship together for the High Holy Days and participate in temple activities together! I encourage you to invite your parents/grandparents to attend a service with you and see if they might be interested in joining. I'd be happy to speak with them about the temple and this new policy.

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather and have a happy and healthy Passover!

Marla Bucher

SOCIAL ACTION

In February we responded to an emergency call for a Bone Marrow Registration Drive. We can be proud of the tremendous show of support from our Temple members. During our three hour period, we were able to provide an additional 98 names to add to the National Registry. That is truly amazing and a blessing for the lives it will potentially save.

This month we extend a warm welcome to our friends at the Wicker Memorial Baptist Church. They will be joining us for our annual dinner before *Shabbat* services on April 11th. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. followed by services at 8 p.m. Please plan on being part of this celebration of community. Look for the "tear-out" later in this bulletin and respond by April 4th if you can be with us and our guests for dinner.

If you were as inspired as we were by Paul Kaufman at the Social Action Shabbat, please join us for our next committee meeting so we can plan to put ideas into action!

Mindy Krull and Shari Canell

Reminder –

**All newsletter submissions should be sent to:
trtnewsletter@gmail.com**

Any questions concerning the newsletter should be directed to Sara Levenstein at the above e-mail address or to the temple office. Please remember that all **articles must be sent in by the first of the preceding month.**



Torah Today

A Brief Summary of Each Week's Torah Portion

Shabbat 4/4-5

Parashat Tazria, Leviticus 12:1-13:59

Summary by Lynn Sternberg

New mothers are considered ritually unclean and must undergo certain sacrifices of purification. If a male is born, the mother is unclean for seven days; for a female child, 14 days. After purification — 33 days for a male, 66 days for a female — a sacrifice is made and the woman is clean once again.

Priests have the responsibility to diagnose various skin ailments including leprosy, burns and baldness, to determine if a person is ritually clean or unclean. They can also examine a person's clothing to see if the person is "clean." If a person or piece of clothing is unclean they are isolated for seven days and then reexamined by the priest.

Shabbat 4/11-12

Parashat Metzora, Leviticus 14:1-15:33

Summary by Fran Robby

Rituals of cleansing, to be performed on lepers and on houses afflicted by a plague, are described in great detail. For lepers, these rituals involve bathing, shaving of hair, and slaughtering and sacrificing of animals. For afflicted homes these rituals involve the closing of the home, scraping and replastering of its walls, and finally, if necessary, the dismantling of the house.

Also described are the ritual cleansing for a man with an unclean discharge from his male organ, and for a woman when she is menstruating, or having some other discharge.

Shabbat 4/18-19

Parashat Aharei Mot, Leviticus 16:1-18:30

Summary by Bernice Levison

After the death of Aaron's sons, God tells Moses to tell Aaron to put on ritual garments and make specifically described sacrifices to atone for his sins, the sins of his household and all of the Israelites. The rituals for the day of atonement are given so that the Israelites can cleanse their sins every year. The rules for eating meat and spilling the blood of the animals are also described. The last section gives the laws governing sexual relationships.

Shabbat 4/25-26

Yiskor – 7th Day of Passover

Shirat Hayam – Song of the Sea:

After God parts the Red Sea to let the Israelites cross over to freedom on dry land, they rejoice in song and dance.

Please come and help us make a minyan every
Saturday morning
10:00 A.M. in the Youth Lounge.
We pray, sing, learn and nosh together in a warm,
casual atmosphere. All ages are wanted and welcome.

NEWS AND NOTES

CHECK OUT MAZON'S REPORT CARDS

Temple Rodeph Torah has been a Partner Congregation of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger for more than two decades. We are pleased to advise you that, in three independent evaluations, MAZON has again received the highest grades possible for charitable organizations. Charitynavigator (www.charitynavigator.org) has given a four-star rating, their highest. Charity Watch (www.charitywatch.org) gives MAZON an A. And MAZON is included in the Wise Giving Alliance of the Better Business Bureau, in full compliance with their stringent Standards of Accountability. We applaud MAZON for its commitment to keeping its expenses low and the quality of its work very high. We are proud to be partners!

SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS WAITING TO JOIN TRT

Did you know that most of our members joined because they knew someone who already belonged? Your invitation to a neighbor or friend to join you at a service is the best advertising we have. We are also happy to send our Newsletter to any interested family, but we can't do it until you tell us who they are. Call Marla Bucher, our Membership Chairperson, at 732-972-7307, and give her the names; she will take it from there. Think about what your belonging to Rodeph Torah means to you, and help us reach out to others. (Besides, you can always use another driver for the carpool...)

PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU

When scheduling a life-cycle event in which you would like either Rabbi Weber or Cantor Shuchat-Marx to participate (weddings, namings, funerals, unveilings, etc.), *please call them first*. If you set the time for such events without calling, it may be impossible for them to attend. Though a funeral overrides almost everything else, clearing the time in advance may save us from disrupting classes or programs already scheduled.

We understand the stressful nature of such times in our lives, and with your help we can make them a little easier on everyone.

If you have any questions about life-cycle events, please feel free to call Rabbi Weber, at 732-409-1268, or Cantor Shuchat-Marx, at 732-308-2311.

WHY YOU SHOULD ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER

Right now you are reading our temple newsletter. Every day of every month, temple members (and the temple) purchase products and services from non-temple members when those same products and services are offered by temple members! Why? Because we don't know what business you are in. All things being equal, wouldn't you rather buy from a temple member? So would we! So, let us know who you are and what your product or service is, and we'll look forward to doing business with you! For further information, please contact the office, at 732-308-0055.

HONORABLE MENSCHEN

The Social Action Committee would like to recognize all who participated in our Bone Marrow Registration Drive in February. Our response was tremendous and truly appreciated by the Weinstein Family and Gift of Life. Due to our efforts, we were able to add an additional 98 names to the National Registry. A special thanks goes out to the following people who helped co-ordinate the collection: Joanne Sinsky, Alyse & Gary Gleitman, Susan & Bernie Aaron and Gabrielle Eichel.

You are Cordially Invited

It is with great pride and pleasure that we invite you, our temple family, to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2008, when our son and brother, Brett Gregory, leads us all in prayer. Please join us for an *oneg* after the service.

Barbara, Jeff and Michelle Friedman

Special moments become treasured memories, when shared with family and friends...Please share in a beautiful tradition when our son and brother, Ryan Jacob is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the *oneg* following the service.

Jodi, Marc, and Josh Zukoff

With great pride and joy, we invite you to share in our special day when our son, Samuel Jesse is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the *oneg* following services.

Bonnie, Peter, Daniel, and Benjamin Sugarman

On this special day of love and tradition, we invite you to share our happiness when our son and brother, Aaron Michael, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 3, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the *oneg* following services.

Anne, Matt and Leah Jacobson

Do you have a simcha in your family — an engagement, promotion or academic award? Please call the temple office and tell us, so we can tell the world for you!

**OUR CONDOLENCES**

To Jerry, Lynn, Josh and Sara Sternberg, on the death of Jerry's mother, Claire Sternberg
 To Charlie, Ellen, Jessica, Adam and Daniel Pearlman, on the death of Charlie's uncle, Jerome Baron
 To Alan, Andrea, Alyssa and Amanda Kazin, on the death of Alan's mother, Frances Kazin

"Zichronam Livrachá" – May their memory be a blessing to all who knew them.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Bolender Holocaust Educational Endowment

Marlene and David Shapiro and family
TRT Board of Directors, in honor of the
Bar Mitzvah of Jay Kasakove
The Gleitman family, in memory of
Evelyn Schlem, mother of
Stuart Schlem

Building Fund

Marsha Koster, for the *yahrzeit* of
Esther Reigrod
Sindy, Louis, Pam, Aimee and Meri Weiner,
for the *yahrzeit* of Vivian Weiner
Phyllis and Henry Levenstein and family,
in memory of Claire Sternberg,
mother of Jerry Sternberg
Theresa and David Simon, in honor of a
wonderful former teacher,
Mrs. Una Tedoff

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Vivian, Steve and Danielle Feinstein,
to welcome Xiao-Ling
Roz and Fred Scheidt in memory of Betty Weisberg,
mother of Karen Joseph
Steve and Lynn Chodos, in honor of the
arrival of Xiao-Ling Shuchat-Marx
Lana and Steve Chernick,
in memory of Henry Sdorow
Neal and Ellen Finkelstein, in appreciation of
Cantor Jacquie for adding so much
spirit to the Adult Retreat through her
music

General Fund

Rachel, Jeff, Erik, Jake and Emily Fleischman,
for the *yahrzeit* of Edward Rosenblum
Iris Misshula, for the *yahrzeit* of
Seymour Smilowitz
Debra Salman, for the *yahrzeit* of
Lawrence Galerstein
Wendie, Stephen and Dylan Weinstein, for
the *yahrzeit* of Bernice Weinstein
Iris, Joel, and Dan Schleifstein, for the
yahrzeit of Goldie Schleifstein
Judith Spiegel, for the *yahrzeit* of Marion Shaw
Marsha, Bruce, Lauren and Rachel Diamond,
for the *yahrzeit* of Gertrude Fingerman
for the *yahrzeit* of Cheryl Diamond

Helena Project Fund

Maurice, Sean and Ryan Heitt, for the *yahrzeit* of
Helena Heitt

Helena Project Fund cont'd

Geri, Mike, Jared and Dana Kaplan, for the
yahrzeit of Rose Brody
Vivian, Steven and Danielle Feinstein, for the
yahrzeit of Werner Blankenstein
Jill and Louis Weltman and family, in memory
of Fran Kazin, mother of Alan Kazin

Herzog Music Fund

Cantor Jacqueline Shuchat-Marx, for the
yahrzeit of Dara Kindler Kaufman,
beloved friend
for the *yahrzeit* of teacher,
Rabbi Matthew I. Derby

Hirsch/Rosen Youth Fund

Robyn, Howie, Erynn and Isaac Gandelman,
for the *yahrzeit* of Fred Gandelman

Israel Scholarship Fund

Ellen and Robert Levine, in honor of the
marriage of Jeremy Levine to
Jennifer Sara Bilovsky
Ellen, Brion, Jason and Daniel Feinberg, for the
yahrzeit of Abraham Kaplan

Nursery School Fund

Rhonda, Steve, Shaun, Landon and Derin
Goodman, for the *yahrzeit* of
Terry E. Bernstein
Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
in honor of the birth of Goldie Micah
Cohen
Ellen and Charles Pearlman, in memory of
Jerome Baron, uncle of Charles Pearlman

Prayerbook Fund

Vivian, Steven and Danielle Feinstein, for the
yahrzeit of Werner Blankenstein
Jill and Louis Weltman and family, in memory
of Fran Kazin
Sheila, Elissa and Craig Harris, for the *yahrzeit*
of Jack Solomon

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

The Tornberg family, in honor of the
Bar Mitzvah of Jay Kasakove
Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
in honor of Rabbi Stern's and Rabbi Weber's
25th anniversary
Ilene and Bill Fireman, in memory of
Claire Sternberg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund cont'd

Harvey, Jennifer and Alyssa Lieber, for the
yahrzeit of Barbara Lieber
 for the *yahrzeit* of Anne Rosenberg
 Stephanie Forti, for the *yahrzeit* of Claire Kaden
 Eva Blankenstein, for the *yahrzeit* of
 Werner Blankenstein
 Robbin Friedell, for the *yahrzeit* of Doris Friedel
 Barbara, Mark, Matthew and Gregory Hirsch, for the
yahrzeit of Meyer Sherman

Religious School Fund

Ellen, Neal and Jill Finkelstein and Rachel Wolman,
 in memory of Marian Finkelstein
 Susan Stier, in memory of Claire Sternberg
 Ellen and Neal Finkelstein and family, for the *yahrzeit*
 of Ida Trencher
 Sheryl and Bruce Cooper, in honor of the
 Bar Mitzvah of Jay Kasakove
 Sheryl Cooper and Geri Kaplan, for the
 speedy recovery of Ruth Haim

Social Action Fund

Una, Ken, Amy and Zack Tedoff,
 in honor of the birth of
 Cole Chodoroff Kaufman
 in honor of the adoption of Xiao-Ling to
 Cantor Jacquie's family
 in appreciation of Suzie Hershman, Sheryl Co-
 oper and Janet Crain-Klemons, for organizing the
 Women's *Shabbaton*
 The Bucher family, in memory of Claire Sternberg
 Susan and Bernie Aaron and family,
 for the *yahrzeit* of Esther Aaron
 for the *yahrzeit* of Dr. Max Aaron

Social Action Fund cont'd

Wendye, Greg, Rachel and Carly Goldstein,
 for the *yahrzeit* of Richard Lippman
 The Chodos family, in memory of
 Claire Sternberg
 Pam and Jeff Brisman, in honor of the marriage
 of Jeremy Levine to Jennifer Sara Bilovsky
 in memory of Claire Sternberg
 The Klug family, for the *yahrzeit* of
 George Hesslein
 Marsha, Steve and Craig Koster and
 Lauren, Bryan and Brody Scherr,
 in honor of Rabbi Don Weber and
 Rabbi Shira Stern's 25th wedding
 anniversary

Temple Improvement and Beautification Fund

Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
 for the *yahrzeit* of Ida Trencher
 in memory of Claire Sternberg
 Wendye, Greg, Rachel and Carly Goldstein,
 in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Chloe Turai
 Sheryl, Bruce Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
 for the *yahrzeit* of Elaine Landberg

Willner/Weinstein Educational Endowment Fund

Shelley and Marc Willner and family,
 in memory of Claire Sternberg
 Shelley Willner, with best wishes for
 Debra Faye's speedy recovery
 Shelley, Marc, Aliza and Brett Willner,
 in memory of the mother and mother-
 in-law of Ed and Marsha Malberg

A New Plaque On Our Tree Of Life Has Been Dedicated By:

Ellen, Allen and Alexandra Bloom, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Zoe Bloom

Be a MAZON Partner:
 3% of the cost of all your *simchas* to feed the hungry
 across the country and around the world!

MAZON:

A Jewish Response to Hunger
 1990 S. Bundy Drive, Suite 260
 Los Angeles, CA 90025

TEMPLE RODEPH TORAH of Western Monmouth
P.O. Box 125, Marlboro, NJ 07746

TEMPLE CONTRIBUTIONS FORM

- BOLENDER HOLOCAUST EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT, for Holocaust education in our temple
BUILDING FUND, for the construction and maintenance of our home
CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND, administered by the Cantor for the benefit of the congregation*
GENERAL FUND, for the maintenance of temple programs and activities
HELENA PROJECT FUND, to provide Shabbat meals for families in times of upset and difficulty
HERZOG MUSIC FUND, for the musical needs of the congregation
HIRSCH/ROSEN MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND, provides funding for youth programs
ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, provides financial assistance for youth trips to Israel
LANDSCAPING FUND, for the purchase of trees, shrubs and flowers to beautify our property
LIBRARY FUND, for the purchase of books for our Library
MEN'S CLUB TRIBUTE FUND, to further the work of the Men's Club
MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND, dedicated completely to paying down the principal on our mortgage
NURSERY SCHOOL, for the development and support of our Nursery School program
PRAYERBOOK FUND, for the purchase of prayerbooks. Any amount may be donated to this Fund, but a contribution of \$36 or more is required to dedicate a prayerbook.
RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND, administered by the Rabbi for the benefit of the congregation*
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND, for the Jewish education of our children
SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND, to further the work of Sisterhood
SOCIAL ACTION FUND, to support the Committee's work of "repairing the world"
TEMPLE IMPROVEMENT and BEAUTIFICATION FUND, provides funds for improvements to the temple
WILLNER/WEINSTEIN EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND, provides interest income for the Religious School's future

*** TREE OF LIFE/MEMORIAL PLAQUES: To celebrate a special occasion by purchasing a leaf for the Tree of Life, or to honor the memory of a loved one who has died, please call the temple office. A Dedication Form will be sent to you.

* Make checks payable to TRT-Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or TRT-Cantor's Discretionary Fund; all other funds payable to Temple Rodeph Torah.

This donation is being made:

In MEMORY of: _____

In HONOR of: _____

Donation made by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Acknowledgment to be sent to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contributions of any amount are welcomed, but there is an \$18 minimum for each acknowledgment you wish sent. Please refer all questions to our temple office, 732-308-0055.

YAHRZEITS

These names will be included in the list of *yahrzeits* on the Shabbat indicated. In addition, at our Friday evening service and Shabbat morning *minyan*, we will invite all those who wish to rise and say the name of the one(s) for whom they are saying *Kaddish*.

DATE	DECEASED	REMEMBERED BY
Shabbat Observance 4/4-4/5		
4/1	Esther Samuelson *	Mother of Susan Berman
4/2	Jerome Binder	Father of Richard Binder
4/3	Rebecca Behar *	Grandmother of Barbara Chamoff
4/4	Sebastian John DiFazio	Father of Anthony DiFazio
4/4	Gussie Fischer *	Mother of Craig Fischer ז"ל
4/4	Susie S. Morin *	Grandmother of Bonnie Siegel
4/4	Pauline Nadboy *	Mother of Melodye Caretsky
4/4	Olive Shaw *	Mother of Kathy Fischer, Grandmother of Cari Luna and Joel Fischer
4/5	Joseph Akselrad *	Father of Phyllis Levenstein
4/5	Sydney Schwitz *	Father of Mark Schwitz
Shabbat Observance 4/11-4/12		
4/6	Stephen Friedland	Brother of Lawrence Friedland
4/6	Symek Kirstein	Father of Andrea Wajngold
4/6	Minnie Weiss	Grandmother of Michael Kaplan
4/8	Erich Friedeman	Father of Les Friedman
4/10	Muriel Altman	Mother of Judy Wiskin
4/10	Roberta Pollack	Sister of Jerome Wainick
4/10	Ruth Klein Ritt	Grandmother of Sharon Solar
4/10	Coleman Treibitz	Father of Lisa Reingold
4/11	Ellen Berrol *	Wife of Steven Berrol and Member of Temple Rodeph Torah
4/12	Charlotte Deutsch	Mother of Beth Kamenitz
4/12	Charlotte Goldberg *	Mother of Gerry Goldberg ז"ל
4/12	Minnie Welkin *	Grandmother of Sheryl Cooper and Ellen Finkelstein
Shabbat Observance 4/18-4/19		
4/13	Blanche Kirnum *	Mother of Jody Feigenbaum
4/13	Ann Mednikoff	Grandmother of Laurie Kaufman
4/13	Lillian Wainick	Mother of Jerome Wainick
4/14	Harvey Friedgood *	Father of Alan Friedgood
4/14	Sarah Marcus	Grandmother of Elyse Langner
4/14	Dorothy Markowitz *	Wife of Milton Markowitz
4/16	Arthur Denbaum	Father of Susan Stier
4/16	Adolph Klein	Great-Great-Grandfather of Sharon Solar
4/16	Sol Weber *	Father of Rabbi Don Weber
4/17	Mae Frieda Anker	Mother of Arlene Mayer
4/17	Camille Gleich	Mother of Stuart Gleich
4/17	Norman Levison	Brother of Lewis Levison
4/17	David "Mickey" Marcus	Uncle of Barbara Klein
4/17	Sylvia Perlman	Mother of Irving Perlman

continued next page

4/18	Sophie Lester	Grandmother of Jay Davis
4/19	George Johnson	Father of Gabrielle Eichel
4/19	Nancy Lytle	Cousin of Linda Cranin
4/19	Rose Rappaport Rosen *	Mother of Jeffrey Rosen
4/19	Bernard Salkin *	Father of Karen Goldstein

Shabbat Observance 4/25-4/26

4/20	Philip Glasser	Father of David Glasser
4/20	Manuel Rajlin	Father of Marta Berkowicz
4/20	Reuben Zweifler *	Father of Susan Baron
4/22	Harry Markowitz	Uncle of Ilene Fireman
4/22	Morris Weiss	Grandfather of Michael Kaplan
4/23	Leah Aaron Beizer	Grandmother of Suzanne Hershman
4/23	Barbara Greenblatt *	Sister of Ed Russin
4/24	Irving Brenner	Grandfather of Brian Reingold
4/24	Ruth Grover	Grandmother of Barbara Friedman
4/24	Janette Kaufman Shindel *	Mother of Steven Kaufman
4/25	Fay Ginsberg	Mother of Alan Ginsberg
4/25	Charles E. Shaw *	Father of Kathy Fischer
4/26	Mollie Gerber	Mother of Irwin Misshula

Shabbat Observance 5/2-5/3

4/27	Aaron Moskowitz	Father of Michael Moskowitz
4/27	Betty Shorr *	Mother of Brian Shorr, Grandmother of Jodie Sherer

*** Indicates the dedication of a plaque on our Memorial Wall.**



Jewish tradition suggests that we give *tzedakah* to honor the memory of our loved ones who have died.

