

Temple Rodeph Torah NEWS

תורה

FEBRUARY 2008

SHEVAT/ADAR I, 5768

FROM RABBI WEBER

I miss J.K. Rowling. Even more, I miss Harry Potter. Not only was Ms. Rowling's rise from poverty a truly inspirational story, but Harry's story – and Hermione's and Ron's – was great. I did not stand outside book stores to buy the newest volumes at one minute past midnight on their release dates, but I did make sure Amazon got them to me as soon as they came out.

When each new book arrived, the real fun would start. Not just the fun of reading them, but the tremendous fun of everyone in our house fighting over who would read them first. We had negotiations – this one reads faster, that one has more free time, and the other one agreed to stay up and read it overnight while everyone else slept. There haven't been many books that two adults and three teenagers would fight over like that.

The same thing happened everywhere. I have spoken before about the troubling results I get when I ask my seventh grade students to name the last book they read that was not for school; in past years, more than a third of all my students would say that they could not remember *any* book they read that was not an assignment. But since Harry arrived, almost every teenager has had a book – or seven – to list when I ask.

Harry's magic, and Rowling's too, seemed to cure "bibliophobia." Kids who never picked up anything but a textbook were suddenly lugging around 800-page volumes and talking about them with their friends in a way that would previously have earned them the label of "terminal nerd." I even use the books to help my students understand that the Torah is not as alien as they imagine: When students ask me if I have ever read "*the whole Torah*," I ask them if they have ever read a Harry Potter book. Almost everyone says yes, and I explain that the *shortest* Harry Potter book is almost twice as long as the Torah; the recent ones are nearly three times as long. Suddenly, they get it – and Torah never seems so scary again.

Many people doubt anything can re-create that excitement now that the series is complete. They point out that book sales for the teenage demographic have not shown any increase *other* than the Harry Potter books; not between editions, and not now that Harry has graduated from Hogwart's. They claim this was a flash in the pan, a single, never-to-be-repeated event. If Rowling had published just one blockbuster book, I might think they were right. But she wrote *seven*, and each of the seven was more popular than the one before. This was no flash in the pan.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ART AUCTION – FEBRUARY 2

8TH AND 9TH GRADE CONCLAVE –
FEBRUARY 1-3

“VERY YOUNG PEOPLE'S SHABBAT”
MOVES TO 2ND FRIDAY – BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 8

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP
SHABBATON – FEBRUARY 8-9

TRT VISITS WICKER MEMORIAL
BAPTIST CHURCH – FEBRUARY 10

10TH GRADE WASHINGTON SEMINAR
FEBRUARY 22-25

SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT – GUEST
SPEAKER FROM REGIONAL URJ
OFFICE – FEBRUARY 29

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What did Rowling do, that made so many kids read? I think she made reading cool – or whatever word kids would use that means “cool” today. I don’t know exactly how she did it, but some (magical) combination of characters, plot and mass hypnosis helped teenagers understand that they could enjoy reading. And now it is our job as adults to figure out how to make it happen again. We cannot claim that “kids today are only into video, not books,” because she proved it is not true.

How do we make that magic happen again? I have two suggestions – one old, one new. The old one is something my parents did for me when I was a child: they said they would pay for any book I bought. As long as it was not a comic book, my parents paid for it or paid me back; I did not even have to ask, and they never questioned my purchases. To this day, I believe my love for books and learning came from that simple but sometimes-expensive offer, and I highly recommend it for your children, your grandchildren or any other children you want to encourage to read.

But if we really want to get children excited about reading, their friends need to be excited about it, too. So why not ask our kids to find a book that they *and their friends* want to read, and buy copies for everyone? We don’t need to make a big deal about it, but imagine the results if two or four or more kids all had the same book to read – something *they* chose? If we don’t put them on the spot by asking them how it’s going, or whether they had good discussions about it, they might enjoy the experience. And if it works, then maybe we could get together with the friends’ parents to take turns buying the next set of books. If each family took a turn, it would not cost more than buying one of each book by the time we are done. I know this is an unusual suggestion, but a series of lengthy books about a child wizard was pretty unusual, too. And it worked.

When was the last time you heard a teenager walk out of a movie and say, “That wasn’t nearly as good as the book”? Harry and his school friends may be grownups now, but our next generation is still learning. J.K. Rowling did her part, and now it is up to us to help them learn – again and again – that books are fun, and exciting, and *always* better than movies.

Shalom,
Rabbi Don Weber

We Warmly Welcome the Newest Members of Temple Rodeph Torah

Carol Lercher
Robert and Stacy Kleinberg and their children, Jared and Alexa

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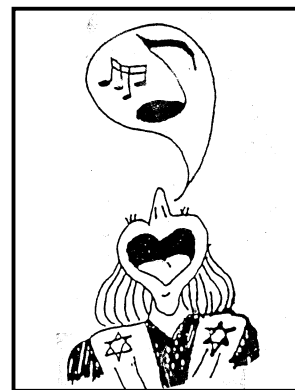
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Notes from the Cantor

Shalom, Chaveirim.

Some time ago I received the following comment: "We are an Ashkenazic congregation. Why are we doing so many Sephardic songs?" I'm glad you asked. The Jewish universe is beautifully varied, and we owe it to ourselves to take frequent study tours. While certain congregations are comprised centrally of Sephardic Jews (Spanish-Portuguese origin), almost all Ashkenazic Jews (central European and some Balkan origin), mainly Mizrahi Jews (North Africa; think Abraham et cetera), or basically Brooklyn Jews (Temple Rodeph Torah – okay, **gotcha!!**) every congregation includes representatives of more than one Jewish locale. Each of these home bases offers different varieties of music, food, life-cycle customs, and prayer styles. We're all just Jews...aren't we? And yet we have so much to lend and borrow amongst ourselves.



We have lived in exile since the year 76 C.E. In other words, nobody is just from Canaan anymore. Is this the tragedy it was once believed to be? Many Reform Jews would say no. Cantor Eliyahu Schleifer, a seventh-generation Jerusalemite and my teacher at HUC-JIR Jerusalem, insists that Israel needs Diaspora as much as Diaspora needs Israel. Many Zionists agree. If this is so, we can reframe our exile statement thus: We have lived at home all over the world since 76 C.E. The rooms in this home show many colors, flavors, aromas and sounds.

Some Jews are surprised to learn that we're not all European-based. Even if every Jew you know is Ashkenazic, you already have much more Sephardism in your background than you know – you just didn't know it. The very first congregation in the United States: Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue (www.shearithisrael.org) was founded in 1654 on 70th and Central Park West in New York City, and continues to thrive today. One of its members was poet Emma Lazarus, who wrote the "Colossus" that is inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty (and a piece of which manuscript hangs outside Rabbi Weber's study). Lazarus was a Sephardic Jew.

In reference to the prayers we sing, one example, "Ein Adir," has a Chassidic text and a Mizrahi melody. "Adon Olam" can be sung to just about any melody you can think of, and has traditional settings that range from the Lutheran-style Gerovitsch to French Sephardic, and everything in between. By the way, in case you've ever been to more than one congregation and said, "I never heard that tune to [prayer of your choice] before!" that's par for the course: There are so many prayer melodies in any Jewish community, let alone the world, that one person may never get to hear them all. What a wealth! If you'd ever like to stop by my study and hear something old sung in a new (but actually old!) melody, just let me know. I have many recordings at your disposal.

In 2000, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion began to re-frame the inclusion of Sephardica in mainstream Jewish education by creating the Sephardic Curriculum Project (www.huc.edu/sephardic; I invite you to play around on this website; it even includes sound files of Sephardic scriptural chant). It wasn't so much that the material wasn't being taught as that it wasn't emphasized as existing outside the same old Ashkenazic box. Still, the engagers of the Sephardic Curriculum Project have uncovered and catalogued significant data, and the work is far from complete. Like the world around us, there is more to what's Jewish than meets the eye – even I, a blonde dumpling of a *yekkeh**, am rumored to have a Portuguese origin that precedes my family's centuries-long stay in Germany. Would that make me *Ashkefardic*?

Yes, we're all just Jews...and, no, none of us is *just* a Jew. The more we know of our diverse Jewish world, the stronger and more open-minded we become as Jews; as people at home all over the world.

B'shalom u-v'shir,
Cantor Jacquie Shuchat-Marx
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*yekkeh = Yehudi Kasheh Havanah (Hard-headed Jew, a nickname for German Jews because...well, we can be.)

Ladino Proverbs

(the Spanish-Jewish vernacular, as Yiddish is to many Ashkenazic Jews)
(with thanks to Cantor Richard Botton)

De tu pan no me arti, de tu palavras no me konforti.
Your bread did not fill me-Your words do not comfort me.

De tu kaza ke no mankes
May you never be missing from your own house.

Guayas de la armada ke tiene muchos kapitanes ke no entienden.
Woeful is the army with too many captains who do not understand.

Kada gayo kanta en su gayinero.
Every rooster sings in his own coop.

Todos los kaminos no son derechos.
All roads are not straight.

Vida sin penas no ay.
Life without problems doesn't exist.

A segun no keres mal para ti ,no keres para tu kompaniero.
Just as you don't want evil for yourself, don't wish it for your companion.

Kuando te yaman azno, mira si tienes kola.
When someone says you're a mule, see if you have a tail.

El Dio ke mos guadre de vezinos malos.
God protect us(Israel) from bad neighbors.

El avlar poco es oro, lo muncho es lodo
Speaking little is gold, much talk is mud.

En boca serrado no entra moshka.
Into a closed mouth, a fly won't enter

And finally-----

Ke nunka avlas d'el buen sabor de las palavras
Never speak just because the words taste sweet!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- Friday, 2/1 - Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service – 6:30 p.m. Note early time!
 Story: “Bless Me, Too!”
 ✧ Birthday Blessings for February; Candle Lighting 4:56 p.m.
- Saturday, 2/2 - Shabbat Morning Services – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
 Bat Mitzvah: Alexa Krantz
- Friday, 2/8 - Shabbat Services:
 7:00 p.m. – “Very Young People’s Shabbat” (20 minutes, for pre-readers)
Moving to the SECOND Friday, beginning this month
 8:00 p.m. – Service
 Sermon: “Carving the Stones of the Temple”
 Candle Lighting 5:04 p.m.
- Saturday, 2/9 - Shabbat Morning Service – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
- Friday, 2/15 - Shabbat Service – 8:00 p.m.
 Sermon: “The Torah’s Magic 8-Ball”
 Candle Lighting 5:13 p.m.
- Saturday, 2/16 - Shabbat Morning Services – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
 B’nai Mitzvah: Jay Kasakove and Joseph Schechter
- Friday, 2/22 - Shabbat Service – 8:00 p.m.
 Sermon: “American Idolatry”
 Candle Lighting 5:21 p.m.
- Saturday, 2/23 - Shabbat Morning Service – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
- Friday, 2/29 - Shabbat Service – 8:00 p.m.
SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT
Guest Speaker: Paul Kaufman, Assistant Regional Director,
Union for Reform Judaism, New Jersey
 ✧ Anniversary Blessings for February; Candle Lighting 5:29 p.m.
- Saturday, 3/1 - Shabbat Morning Services – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
 Bar Mitzvah: Justin Feld

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:

Every once in a while, you find yourself in another universe; one which is at once familiar and utterly unfamiliar. That was how I felt wandering through the streets of Moscow last month, looking for a little piece of home.

Moscow today is considerably different than it was even 10 years ago, when looking for a synagogue or acknowledging your Jewishness publicly could get you into trouble. For me, trying to find the Jewish Community was difficult, but no longer dangerous.

My first stop was Marina Roscha, the Lubavitch *shul* recently renovated after a bomb took out the front of the building, injuring several people and destroying the original wooden sanctuary. After that, a number of anti-Semitic incidents were brought to light, some past and others current. It prompted the head of the Parliament Security Committee, Viktor Ilyukhin, to say, "The country's government is formed as if it had forgotten that there are talented people of different nationalities. For some reason priority is bestowed on one nationality, Jews. Unfortunately, I do not preclude that there may be more explosions." I wasn't in Marlboro any more.

I passed two armed guards outside, then surveillance equipment scanned me as I entered the building, then two more guards watched as I stepped through the metal detector before getting to the lobby.

The building had a guarded, deserted quality to it. No one was in the sanctuary, and in every room I was regarded as a suspicious stranger. No sounds of children, despite the fact that an entire floor was dedicated to them. The nurse and doctor available to the needy worked behind closed doors. Silence prevailed.

By contrast, looking for the famous Choral Synagogue had a different feel. The bright yellow building welcomed visitors, and was easily identified by the large Star of David on its roof. Across the street, a large *hamsa* guarded the parking lot, and though other buildings surrounding it seemed neglected, this *shul* was lovingly well-kept.

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Outside, some older men stood on the steps, talking quietly. Inside, after a security check which included a pat-down, I was met by Shai (Alexander), the *gabbai*, an elderly gentleman whose Yiddish and Russian made it possible to communicate with me. Anything he couldn't say, he signed with his hands.

The building itself houses three separate functioning congregations: the main one Ashkenazi, the smaller one Sephardi and the third, Caucasion – Jews from Kazakhstan. The building also housed a working *mikveh*, a full service kosher restaurant, a library and bookstore, and classrooms for students, many of whom are in their seventies. Twenty-five “*alte talmidim*” – older students – came for Torah study twice a week; two hundred people show up for Shabbat services and several hundred on Rosh Hashanah. Not so different from Marlboro, I thought, until I realized how extraordinary it was to be standing in a *shul* under Russian auspices. As I looked at the decorative ceilings and walls, the classic architecture that in the distant past might have sheltered thousands of Jews, I understood the difference: Temple Rodeph Torah for all its simplicity, is far richer because it is filled with people, no ghosts.

How lucky we are to be where we are, and how easy it is for us to be Jewish, whatever our level of observance. I cried as I stood on the *bimah* – because had my grandparents stayed in Moscow in the early twentieth century, would I be standing here at all? I would never have had the experience, education and passion for Judaism that America has afforded me. Growing up in the 50's and 60's, I would not have been allowed to study.

One thing I found in the Choral Synagogue was a hunger that was palpable: to learn all that Judaism can provide; to find some measure of comfort in a society where anti-Semitism is on the rise; to do Jewish and to be Jewish.

Maybe it's too easy for us: we have seven temples within twenty miles of us in Marlboro – and those are only the Reform ones. We choose where to belong on the basis of convenience, or social circle, or how much Jewish education we want for our children. In Moscow, Jews have fewer choices and much more hurdles to jump in order to express their Jewishness. “Please don't forget us,” the *gabbai* said as I left. “Come again and *davven* with us.”

Sometimes you have to leave home to count your blessings.

L'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

Welcome back to school. We hope you all had a happy and safe vacation. We are back into our nursery school routines. This month we learned about animals that hibernate and what other animals do in the winter to find food. We also learned about germs and how to cover our sneezes and coughs with our elbows, not with our hands. We started making a book about colors, which will go home in February. Due to the wonderfully warm weather in January, we've been able to play outside. What a treat!

Applications are now being accepted for Mommy and Me classes and for September nursery school classes. You can obtain an application by calling the TRT office or by coming in to the temple. Happy New Year!

Ms. Ellen and Ms. Randi

Happy New Year to all! We jumped into January here at TRT Mommy and Me. The fun continues as we go full speed ahead. There is so much singing, dancing, puppets, parachute, arts and crafts, storytelling, games, toys, exercising and exciting surprises left to see. Join us or just stop in to say hello as we continue our Mommy and Me adventures.

Ms. Robin & Ms. Ellen

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership committee is busy planning our next Open House sometime in the spring. If you know of someone who is interested in joining a temple, please call or e mail me with their information and I'd be happy to contact them about the Open House and temple membership. It would be a wonderful idea to accompany them to the temple and attend a Shabbat service with them.

It is not too late to sign up for the Young People's Shabbat Dinner and service on Friday, February 8th, beginning at 6:15 pm. It is open to the entire community, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend. If you are planning to join us, please call the temple office, at 732-308-0055, by February 5th.

Marla Bucher

SOCIAL ACTION

Be PROUD! Your generosity this winter helped warm the bodies and the hearts of many people. The coat collection was a huge success. We ask for your continued support with our ongoing programs. Bins remain in the atrium for your contributions to be sent to the troops as well as for items to be included in our Birthday Bag creations. Also, if you are available to serve at the Asbury Park Soup Kitchen, please contact Andrea Kazin at 732-946-3535 to discuss details and arrange a date.

The Social Action Committee asks you to join us at two special events this month. We hope that you will participate in our annual visit to the Wicker Memorial Baptist Church. Our congregation is invited to share in their Sunday worship on February 10th. We are asked to arrive by 10:15 a.m. for services, which are always followed by a generous luncheon. Look for a reminder in your e-mail or call the office with any questions. This is always a joyous celebration of our communities coming together.

Our Committee also urges you to attend our own Social Action Shabbat on February 29th. We are extremely fortunate to have Paul Kaufman joining us. Paul is the Assistant Regional Director of The Union for Reform Judaism and will be speaking to the congregation that evening. He will join the topics of environmentalism and advocacy by discussing environmental issues we face, the Jewish ethical principles relating to them and “what we can do” in terms of lobbying officials to take the necessary and appropriate actions. We are hopeful that Paul will have a large audience to inspire. Bring your family and friends!

The committee will be working on details for our spring programs and activities at our meeting this month. Please join us on February 20th at 7:00 p.m. We would love to see you there!

Mindy Krull and Shari Canell

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

Women's Spirituality is having a *Shabbaton* on February 8th-9th. The theme is: *HOW ANGELS CAN HELP US INCREASE OUR SPIRITUALITY IN DAILY LIFE*. The cost is \$40 for TRT members and \$50 for non-TRT members. Please send your checks, made payable to TRT Women's Spirituality, to the temple office ASAP!

The schedule for the program will be as follows:

Friday, February 8th, 6:00 p.m. - services and pot luck dinner at the home of Janet Crain Klemons.

(please email suziehershman@yahoo.com with the non-dairy item you will be bringing)

Saturday, February 9th, 9:00 a.m. - breakfast and services at the home of Sheryl Cooper.

12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., lunch, breakout sessions, and *havdalah* service at TRT.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 732-933-1562 or suziehershman@yahoo.com.

We would love to see you there,
Suzie Hershman



Torah Today

A Brief Summary of Each Week's Torah Portion

Shabbat 2/1-2 Parashat Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1-24:18 Summary by Judy Kramer

This section includes a number of important laws and ends with Moses ascending the mountain of God, staying there 40 days and 40 nights and inscribing God's teaching and commandments on the stone tablets. Included among the laws mentioned are the rights and restrictions of slaves; punishment by death for planned murder, kidnapping; insulting or striking a parent; restitution for damage to property; bestiality, sorcery, false sacrifice or ill treatment of orphans or strangers. Also described are punishments for stealing, harming or loosely grazing oxen, sheep and other animals. Worshiping other gods, false witness and giving or taking bribes are forbidden. This section includes the famous "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" quote. It proscribes the Sabbath and the seventh year of rest for farmlands and vineyards, and establishes our three important holidays: Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

Shabbat 2/8-9 Parashat Terumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19 Summary by Jonathan Seidel

Adonai tells Moses that the children of Israel must build a "temple" in preparation for receiving the testimony (Ten Commandments). The children of Israel have to build a sanctuary, ark, tabernacle, and altar. The instructions for building them are very detailed, required many precious metals and specific materials, and the measurements given for building them are very precise.

Shabbat 2/15-16 Parashat Tetzavveh, Exodus 27:20-30:10 Summary by Barry Kaye

The Israelites learn that they must provide olive oil for lamps in the Tent of Meeting that shall burn from evening until morning for all eternity. Moses is to enlist Israelite craftspeople to fashion elaborately adorned Priest's garments, described by God in exacting detail. Noteworthy is the breastpiece inscribed with the names of the tribes of Israel to be worn over Aaron's heart as a remembrance for all times. Aaron and his sons who shall serve Adonai as Priests are to dress in these sacral vestments while officiating in the Temple. Aaron and his sons are ordained as *Kohanim* in a seven-day ritual of washing, dressing, anointing and carrying out numerous burnt offering and sin offering sacrifices before God. The *parasha* ends with God providing instructions for constructing an altar for the daily burning of incense and an annual purification ritual.

Shabbat 2/22-23 Parashat Ki Tissa, Exodus 30:11-34:35 Summary by Gloria and Ed Russin

While Moses is on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments, the Israelites build a golden calf to worship. Upon descending from the mountain, Moses becomes enraged at the sight of the calf and smashes the tablets. Moses asks to see God, but God says Moses can only see God's back, since to see God is to die. God tells Moses to carve new tablets, and God will provide him with the Ten Commandments again. During the next 40 days and nights God gives Moses additional laws to observe. God also commands Moses to observe the seven days of Passover, the Sabbath, and other holidays.

*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

ORDERING PASSOVER HAGGADOT

The Reform Movement publishes a beautiful *Haggadah* for Passover. It is large, easy to read, liberal in its perspective, and magnificently illustrated. If you are still suffering through the Maxwell House version (or if you never seem to get through it), you owe it to yourself to see how wonderful a seder can be!

Rabbi Weber has copies of the book for your inspection. If you would like to order them for your family's seder, you must place your order with Sisterhood's Judaica shop by March 1. The cost is \$15.95 per book, including shipping. We suggest that you purchase enough for *half* your guests the first year, and let everyone share. In succeeding years you can add a few more each year, so the expense is not so great.

If you wouldn't want to use an Orthodox prayerbook at Shabbat services when there is a rabbi to lead you, why would you use an Orthodox *Haggadah* when you have to do it by yourself? Ask Rabbi Weber to show you this beautiful book.

WHAT IF IT SNOWS?

If we have to cancel Religious School due to snow on a Sunday morning, a telephone chain will notify everyone. Please do not call the temple unless you have not heard by 8:00 a.m., and you seriously doubt that school will be held.

For afternoon and evening classes, services, meetings, and all other temple functions, you may call the temple (732-308-0055) for information, or call the chairperson of the activity directly.

Please do not assume programs are canceled!

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"

Thank you to National Appeal Hotel Hygiene and our member, Steve Chodos, for cleaning the sanctuary carpeting and the kitchen floor.

You are Cordially Invited

On this special day of love and tradition, we invite you to share our happiness when our daughter and sister, Alexa Danielle is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the *oneg* following the service.

Randi, Ron, Lindsay and Jillian Krantz

We invite you to share in our happiness and joy when our son and brother, Joseph Adam, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 16, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the *oneg* following services.

Marjori, Andrew, Matthew and Sydne Schechter

We invite you to share in our happiness on this special day in our lives when our son and brother, Jay Daniel, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 16, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the *oneg* following services.

Roy, Jerri, Evan and Ryan Kasakove

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

to Melanie and Adam Chazanoff, on the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Farah Chazanoff, and to Donna and Len Chazanoff, on the birth of their granddaughter

to Cantor Jacquie, Mark and Harry Shuchat-Marx, on the adoption and naming of their daughter and sister, Xiao-Ling.

to Ruth and Artie Kaufman, on the birth of their grandson, Cole Chodorcoff Kaufman.

to Erica Brown, daughter of David and Susan Brown and the late Enid Brown, on her engagement to Joshua Rosenson.

to Larry Rosen, on his appointment to the Marlboro Township Teen Advisory Committee: Deputy Mayor – Director of Economic Development

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!

REMINDER -

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

Any questions concerning the newsletter should be directed to Geri Kaplan in the temple office. Please remember that all articles must be sent in by the first of the preceding month.

OUR CONDOLENCES

to Kathy Shaw Fischer, on the death of her sister, Joan Shaw Wright
to Ilene, Bob, Michael and Jeffrey Horowitz, on the death of Ilene's father, Irving Liffland
to Rabbis Don Weber and Shira Stern, on the death of Rabbi Weber's aunt, Renee Gothelf
to Cantor Jacquie and Mark Shuchat-Marx, on the death of their friend, Marc Orchant
to Larry, Karen and Jay Goldstein, on the death of Larry's aunt, Lillian Fatell
to Joel, Marcia, Heather, Geoff and Kara Borshof, on the death of Joel's mother, Beatrice Borshof
to Marla, Marty, Josh and Ariel Bucher, on the death of Marla's mother, Ruth Mack
to Karen, David, Benjamin, Jeremy and Michelle Joseph, on the death of Karen's mother, Betty B. Weisberg
to Sandy, Randy, Tara, Hayley, Shane and Taylor Derris on the death of Sandy's mother, Regina Derris

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



CONTRIBUTIONS

Bolender Holocaust Educational Endowment

Marlene and David Shapiro and Family,
in memory of the Bolender Family
in memory of Haim Goldenberg

Building Fund

Phyllis and Henry Levenstein and Family,
for the *yahrzeit* of Rose Markowitz Nathanson
for the *yahrzeit* of Blanche Akselrad
in memory of Beatrice Borshof, mother
of Joel Borshof

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of Ilana Chasin

Marsha Koster, for the *yahrzeit* of Celia Steinberg
Lynn and Stephen Chodos, in honor of the
engagement of Josh Sternberg and Arielle
Genee

Marsha, Bruce, Rachel and Lauren Diamond, for the
yahrzeit of Murray Fingerman

Della and Jeff Cherchia and Family, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

The Grossman Family and The Scheidt Family,
in memory of Grace Lipton

Sharon Solar and Tod Chasin, in honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of Ilana Chasin

Rich Grossman, for the *yahrzeit* of Sonya Grossman
Linda and Jerome Wainick, in honor of Cantor Jacquie
and Mark's new daughter

The Wiskin Family, with best wishes for the speedy
recovery of Ed Licht

Debbie and Saul Curtis, in honor of the new member of
the Shuchat-Marx family

Pam, Jeff, Alexis and Jared Brisman, Welcome to
Xiao-Ling!

General Fund

Carol Zaitz, for the *yahrzeit* of Ethel Kines Owens
Susan and Bruce Baron, for the *yahrzeit* of

Sari Graber
for the *yahrzeit* of Richard Baron

The Ginsberg Family, for the *yahrzeit* of
Herman Leonard Ginsberg

Elsie, Warren, Lauren and Jennifer Sidosky,
for the *yahrzeit* of Leon Sidosky

for the *yahrzeit* of Irene Sidosky Gordon

Zalma and Bernie Gelber, for the *yahrzeit* of
Hilda Alpert

Anne and Matt Jacobson, in memory of Beatrice Borshof

The Levenstein Family, in memory of Stephen Jacobs
Nadine, Joel, Lauren, Stephanie and Ryan Sherman, for
the *yahrzeit* of Oscar Feld

Pamela Brisman, for the *yahrzeit* of Daniel Panconi

General Fund cont'd

Jodi, Louis, Brittany, Justin and Corey Feld, for the
yahrzeit of Oscar Feld

Ellen and Robert Levine, for the *yahrzeit* of Leon Levine
for the *yahrzeit* of Fred Zeltzer

Helena Project Fund

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin

Bonnie and Alan Lurie and Family, in memory of
Irving Liffland, father of Ilene Horowitz

Herzog Music Fund

Cantor Jacquie Shuchat-Marx, for the *yahrzeit* of
Ella Marx

for the *yahrzeit* of Elise Guthman

Phyllis and Henry Levenstein, in memory of
Betty B. Weisberg, mother of Karen Joseph

Geri, Mike, Jared and Dana Kaplan, in memory of
Betty B. Weisberg

Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
in memory of Betty Weisberg

Hirsch/Rosen Youth Fund

Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
in memory of Irving Liffland

in memory of Beatrice Borshof

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin

Paula, Jay, Beth and Scott Kanofsky, in memory of
Irving Liffland

Israel Scholarship Fund

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin

Stacey Handfuss, in memory of Regina Derris, mother of
Sandy Derris

Leslie, Steven, Dan and Ethan Berlin, in memory of
Leo Schreiber

Landscaping Fund

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin

Marsha and Steve Koster, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof

in memory of Joan Shaw Wright, sister of
Kathy Shaw Fischer

Library Fund

Ronda Binkowitz, for the *yahrzeit* of Abe Brandes

continued next page

Mortgage Reduction Fund

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin
Lynn and Jerry Sternberg, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof

Nursery School Fund

Jo Ellen, Mark, Nicole and Scott Landesman,
for the *yahrzeit* of Mary Jacobson
for the *yahrzeit* of Eugene Landesman
Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin
Phyllis and Henry Levenstein, in memory of
Ruth Mack, mother of Marla Bucher
Ellen, Charlie, Jessica, Adam and Daniel Pearlman,
in memory of Ruth Mack
in honor of Jessica Pearlman's completion of
her Master's Degree in Counseling
Susan and David Brown, in memory of Regina Derris
Lynn and Stephen Chodos, in memory of Ruth Mack
Bonnie and Richard Miller and Family, in memory of
Ruth Mack
Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper
in memory of Ruth Mack
Ellen and Allen Bloom, in memory of Ruth Mack
Susan and David Brown, in memory of Betty Weisberg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sharon Solar and Tod Chasin, in honor of Ilana Chasin's
Bat Mitzvah
Anne and Matt Jacobson, with thanks to Rabbi Weber
Stephanie Forti, in honor of Rabbi Weber
The Diamond Family and The Fingerman Family,
with appreciation to Rabbi Weber for his caring
nature, concern and support
Jerry Wiskin, in memory of the beloved father of
Mitch Kasten
Arlene and Bruce Agulnick and Barbara Sorkin,
in memory of Dorothy Zecher
The Tornberg Family, in memory of Regina Derris
in memory of Betty Weisberg
in memory of Ruth Mack
in memory of Irving Liffland
Maria, Evan, Deena and Mark Chesler, in memory of
Irving Liffland
Sandy Goldstein, for the *yahrzeit* of Esta Goldstein
Sue, Warren, Alex and Dave Brumel, for the *yahrzeit* of
Joel S. Mayer
Allen Rothman, for the *yahrzeit* of Sylvia Burris
Bill Fireman, for the *yahrzeit* of Sheila Seider
The Neufeld Family, for the *yahrzeit* of Naomi Antonoff
in honor of Dan Neufeld's 50th birthday
The Lieber Family, for the *yahrzeit* of
William Rosenberg
Hedda Scheck, for the *yahrzeit* of Rosa Rosenthal
Barry, Elise and Jennifer Kaye, for the *yahrzeit* of
Rose Herman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund cont'd

Joan Ho and Family, for the *yahrzeit* of
Charles Lee Ho, Jr.
Helene, Ira, Brett and Chad Kaplan, and Melissa Chill,
for the *yahrzeit* of Bernard Fleigel
Phyllis Solomon and Family, for the *yahrzeit* of
David Solomon
Marc Cohen, for the *yahrzeit* of Abraham Cohen
Barbara and Jessica Schambach, for the *yahrzeit* of
Joseph Fireison
Ann Goldstein, for the *yahrzeit* of Jack Waldman

Religious School Fund

Sandy Finkelstein, in honor of my 5th and 7th grade
students and their parents
Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin
Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
in memory of Lillian Fatell, aunt of
Larry Goldstein
in memory of Regina Derris
Phyllis and Henry Levenstein, in memory of
Regina Derris
Randy and Sandy Derris and Family, for the *yahrzeit* of
Stephen Derris
Maxine and Richard Herzog, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof
Suzie and Gil Hershman, in memory of Betty Weisberg
Susan Stier, in memory of Betty Weisberg
in memory of Ruth Mack
in memory of Beatrice Borshof

Social Action Fund

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin
Geri, Mike, Jared and Dana Kaplan, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof
in memory of Lillian Fatell
in memory of Ruth Mack
for the *yahrzeit* of Hilda Alpert
Leigh and Seth Crystall and Family, in memory of
Ruth Mack
Lynn and Stephen Chodos, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof
Mindy, David and Marissa Krull, for the *yahrzeit* of
Elise Herz
Marla and Marty Bucher and Family, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof
The Bucher Family and the Mack Family,
in memory of Dennis Mack
Leslie, Steven, Dan and Ethan Berlin, in memory of
Irving Liffland
Jerry Wiskin, in memory of Ruth Mack
Robin and Joseph Windman and Family, in memory of
Ruth Mack

Temple Improvement and Beautification Fund

Sheryl and Bruce Cooper and Family, in memory of
Joan Shaw Wright
Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin
Nina and Rich Grossman, in memory of
Beatrice Borshof
in memory of Regina Derris
in memory of Ruth Mack
in memory of Betty B. Weisberg

Willner/Weinstein Educational Endowment Fund

Sharon and Tod Chasin, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Ilana Chasin
Shelly and Marc Willner, in memory of
Harold Rosenberg
in memory of Catherine Pray
in memory of Beatrice Borshof
in memory of Ruth Mack
in memory of Regina Derris
in memory of Betty B. Weisberg
in honor of the birth of Noah Louis
Levita
Lynn and Stephen Chodos, in memory of Libby Willner

**Be a MAZON Partner:
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feed the hungry
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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 2/1-2/2		
2/1	Louis Koster	Father of Steven Koster
2/1	Herbert Michaels	Father of Lynn Michaels
2/1	Tillie Sugarman	Grandmother of Peter Sugarman
2/1	Allen Wien	Father of Lawrence Wien
Shabbat Observance 2/8-2/9		
2/3	Soloman Fischer	Father of Philip Fischer
2/3	Dara Kindler Kaufman	Beloved Friend of Mark and Cantor Jacquie Shuchat-Marx
2/3	Stanley Perlman	Father of Neal Perlman
2/3	Sondra Tankell	Sister of Martin Reibel
2/4	Fred Anker	Brother of Arlene Mayer
2/4	Jack Bayer *	Grandfather of Mark Schwitz
2/4	Harriet Crain *	Mother of Janet Klemons
2/4	Michelle Stacey Friedman *	Niece of David Brown and Enid Brown ל"ו, Daughter of Maureen Friedman ל"ו
2/4	Morris "Red" Shuchat	Grandfather of Mark Shuchat-Marx
2/5	Charles Garfield	Grandfather of Saul Curtis
2/5	Faye Margolies *	Mother of Bernard Margolies, Grandmother of Alan Margolies
2/6	Phyllis Rosenthal	Mother of Jaelyn Rabinowitz
2/7	Nathan Levison	Father of Lewis Levison
2/8	Florance Bauer	Mother of Carol Castro
2/8	Joseph Kizel	Father of Irwin Kizel
2/8	Roberta R. Kronstadt *	Mother of Helene Cooper
2/8	Allen Kuflik	Brother of Betty Wolfson
2/8	Edward Rosenblum	Father of Rachel Fleischman
2/8	Morris Wilencyk	Grandfather of Carol Chasin
2/9	Mark Cardullo	Friend of Robbin Friedell
Shabbat Observance 2/15-2/16		
2/10	Susan Gelfand	Sister-In-Law of Maxine Liebers
2/11	Ruth Bolender *	Mother of Marlene Shapiro
2/11	Stanley Lituchy	Uncle of Alyse Gleitman
2/11	Rose Miller	Mother of Jerome Miller
2/11	Goodwin Rosen *	Father of Jeffrey Rosen
2/11	Michael J. Santaly	Brother of Melody Midoneck
2/14	Max Rosenkranz	Grandfather of William Rogove
2/15	Arthur G. Braun *	Father of Lenny Braun
2/15	Ruth Mack	Grandmother of Marla Bucher
2/15	Elaine Zipper	Mother of Saul Zipper
2/16	Thea K. Gray *	Friend of Annemarie Rosenow

Shabbat Observance 2/22-2/23

2/17	Howard Martin Sprechman *	Brother of Harold Sprechman
2/18	Max Aidelman	Father of Debra Aidelman
2/18	Stanley Meyers	Father of Jane Gorenstein
2/18	Marion Shaw	Mother of Judith Spiegel
2/18	Paul Sternberg *	Brother of Gerald Sternberg
2/19	Rabbi Matthew I. Derby	Teacher of Cantor Jacque Shuchat-Marx
2/19	Ruth Horn	Grandmother of Karen Goldstein
2/19	Nathan Rubel *	Father of Craig Rubel
2/20	Doris Friedel	Grandmother of Robbin Friedell
2/20	Rita Kirschenbaum *	Mother of Jack Kirschenbaum
2/20	Richard Klein	Friend of Ira and Helene Kaplan
2/20	Esther Reigrod	Grandmother of Marsha Koster
2/21	Lillian Hoffman	Mother of Eric Hoffman
2/22	Marvin Galland	Father of Debra Gleich
2/23	Etta Kreisberg	Mother of Randy Cooper
2/23	Henry Sdorow	Father of Lana Chernick

Shabbat Observance 2/29-3/1

2/24	Alexander Berlin	Father of Ilene Fireman
2/24	Terry Esther Bernstein	Mother of Rhonda Goodman
2/24	Avaraham Maravent	Grandfather of Miriam Koppel
2/24	Seymour Smilowitz	Father of Iris Misshula
2/24	Ida Trencher	Grandmother of Sheryl Cooper and Ellen Finkelstein
2/25	Sidney Fine	Step-father of Laurie Karmel
2/25	Leah Razel Lechowitsky	Great-grandmother of Carol Chasin
2/26	Gertrude Ball	Great-aunt of Jeffrey Ball
2/27	Esther Thelma Aaron *	Mother of Bernard Aaron
2/27	Bessie Rothman	Grandmother of Helene Kaplan
2/27	Bernie Weinstein	Mother of Stephen Weinstein
2/28	Marian Finkelstein *	Sister of Neal Finkelstein
2/28	Goldie Schleifstein *	Mother of Joel Schleifstein
2/29	Lawrence Galerstein *	Father of Debra Salman
2/29	Anne Rosenberg	Mother-in-law of Harvey Lieber
2/29	Vivian Weiner *	Mother of Louis Weiner

*** 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.

