

Temple
Rodeph
Torah **NEWS**
תורה ודעה

JANUARY 2008

TEVET/SHEVAT, 5768

FROM RABBI WEBER

Charitable organizations ask me for contributions all year long, but the month of December puts the rest of the year to shame. Not a day goes by without at least one request for a donation; often there are many; and what does not arrive in the mail comes across the airwaves. Americans *are* more charitable during the holiday season, but it comes at a price: by the time we reach the end of the year we don't want to hear any more, see any more or give any more. We are "compassioned out."

It's not just that so many people ask us for money. It is also that many of us *do* respond when we are asked, only to be asked again. And again. And again. How many organizations have you supported which ever wrote to you and said, "Thanks to your help we have accomplished our goals, the problem is solved, and we will never ask you for money again"? Not many, I imagine. They keep asking, and we try to keep giving.

I remember a very annoyed person who rebuffed me during a supermarket food drive. When I asked her to buy one additional item to feed the hungry she angrily said, "NO, I won't. I did it last year." My first response was shock: did she really believe that the box of instant mashed potatoes she bought last year solved world hunger? But as I thought about it, I sympathized. My gentle request may have been the fifth, tenth or twentieth request for help which she received that week, and sometimes it just gets to be too much.

Being Jewish only adds to the pressure. Our goal is *tikkun olam*, "repairing the world," which we cannot ever complete. Whether our goal is ending hunger, making peace in the world, erasing discrimination or bringing comfort to the scared, we will *never* completely solve even one of these problems. So why do we bother to try?

Rabbi Steven Moss of Oakdale, NY, was my mentor when I volunteered as a chaplain at the Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. When I began, he said something very wise: "If you will only be satisfied with your work if you cure everyone of their cancer, then do not do this, because you will always be disappointed. But if you can be satisfied by knowing that *you helped make things a little better*, then you can do this well." That lesson has helped me many times, and I hope it will help you, too.

SPECIAL EVENTS

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL RESUMES – January 2

MOREHSHa BEGINS 2ND SEMESTER AT TRT – January 7

PURIM SHPIEL PREPARATION BEGINS – January 9

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY; NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL – January 20 & 21

URJ SHABBATON IN WARREN, NJ – January 27

5th GRADE NAMING CEREMONY – JANUARY 31

8th and 9th GRADE CONCLAVE AT KUTZ CAMP – February 1-3

GUEST COLUMN: "FAITH AND MEMORY" – PAGE 7

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TRT's social action projects do not stop after the holidays. In fact, we usually ease up in December, rather than compete with everyone else who is asking for your help. But now it is January, and time to remember that the causes we work on have not gone away and still need our support. We do not expect you to give to every one; in fact, it is probably better if you don't. But we do hope you will pick one, and make it something you work on throughout the year.

- We have "adopted" a new unit of American soldiers in Iraq. Pick up a shopping list and bring some of the things they need which the Army does not provide. It won't bring these 150 men and 100 women home any earlier, or even keep them from harm while they are there, but it *will* make their lives a little easier and help them know they are not forgotten.
- In our own community, we have joined with Freehold Open Door as Birthday Party Partners, to provide a small party for local children whose families cannot afford to do anything to mark their birthday. A few dollars' worth of supplies and a small gift are all it takes to give someone a very special treat. It won't change their entire life, but it *will* make one day a little better.
- In exactly the same way, a few hours on a Sunday morning are all it takes to help at the Asbury Park soup kitchen. We will give you all the information you need and find a date that is convenient; all you need to bring is yourself, other family members or friends, and a smile. You don't even need to bring the food. But your help *will* make a difference in the lives of those you serve.
- Finally, the basket is always in the atrium to collect food for the hungry. It is not hard to buy a little extra at the supermarket, or even to make an extra trip just to buy for the food bank, and we make it very convenient to drop items off whenever you are near TRT. No, you will not solve world hunger with your donation, either. But you *will* make things a little better for those who have no food.

I know it is hard. I know you gave, and give, and will give. I know you get tired of caring, not because you are heartless but because you *have* a heart, and the heartbreaking appeals are more than you can possibly handle. Don't try to do it all; that is not your job. Just pick one, or pick a few, and keep giving. It *will* matter. It *will* help. It *will* repair a little piece of the world.

Shalom, and Happy New Year,
Rabbi Don Weber

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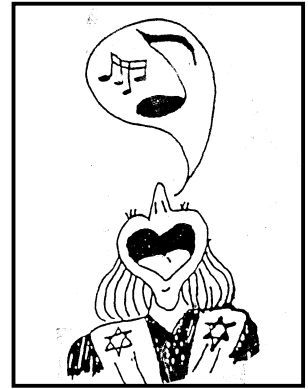
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Notes from the Cantor

Shalom, Chaveirim!

It's about that time of year again for me to say, "Go To URJ Camp Harlam. Go Directly to URJ Camp Harlam. Do not pass go. Do not collect two hundred dollars." Instead, I'm going to let TRT's students speak for themselves. But first, a word from a rabbinic colleague who enjoys reading our newsletter each month:



Shalom! I have been reading your wonderful pieces in the Temple's NEWS for a long time, as my friend Rabbi Weber has had me on the mailing list for years. Wanted to say how much I smiled at your January 2007 piece on turning "Harlam" into a Hebrew phrase. I wanted to add a suggestion: Har L'Am – mountain for peoplehood. Our camps cement Jewish identity and assist children in experiencing early "peaks" in their Jewish lives as part of a greater Jewish people – beyond the temple walls.

*Best wishes,
Rabbi Debra Hachen*

And now to the words of our own kids who have been to camp and come home – well, the same, only better!

Camp Harlam was really fun. At night you do something special, but you don't know what it is. The only way you can find out till then is from the clue they give you at dinner. Once it was messy games, when they made different things to do that were messy, like getting syrup and sprinkles on your hands and then playing hand games with the people at your station.

Camp Harlam also teaches you to work together and trust yourself in fun ways, like getting across on a wire with just 2 people in your bunk there to catch you if you fall. You have to trust yourself when you do the rock wall or the tower. You have to trust yourself and find ways to get to the next rock.

Even though the services and learning about Judaism probably doesn't sound fun, it's a lot better there. You get to sing a lot of songs and half the time you listen to speeches other campers make. They also find ways to make learning a little more fun and you don't have to just sit there listening.

Ariel Barter

If I had to choose my favorite place in the world it would be URJ Camp Harlam. It is a sleep-away camp in Pennsylvania. Every Friday and Saturday we have services on chapel on the hill or chapel in the woods. We do a lot of activities there. We go to Dorney Park and Beltzville, which is a man-made beach. We have Jewish learning, swimming, and even singing. We have activities like the swing, rock climbing, and high ropes. We also have clinics, which are sports workshops. There are clinics of gymnastics which is my personal favorite, basketball, self defense, soccer, and roller skating. Camp Harlam is a beautiful place with tons of friends that become family. Also every night we have an evening activity which is so fun- especially messy night which is when we basically have a food fight of junk food! One of my favorite things ever to do in Camp Harlam is song session. That is when we all get together and sing our hearts out with songs like MTA and Summertime Forever. I also love color war. Everyone gets dressed up and plays tons of sports and by the end of color war your voice is gone! It is soooooo much fun! Now that I am home from camp I am talking to my friends almost every day. I wish I could just go back to camp right now!

Michelle Joseph

Camp Harlam isn't just a summer camp. It is a place for family. You learn to become a community and how to be yourself. I have kept in close touch with everyone in my cabin. You learn so much about them and sometimes

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make better friends than you ever had before. Each Friday and Saturday we have Shabbat services, full of fun, song, and personality. Through all the Color War and Song Sessions we found time to help a designated family in Israel. We made donations and gave support to Israel throughout this time. If we need to feel good they should also. Camp Harlam is my second home. There, I can live and love.

Ilana Chasin

I cannot even begin to express my love for that place. I have attended Camp Harlam for a total of twelve years - over half my life's summers. I started attending in Carmel (the youngest unit) in 1995 and have been on staff for a total of 4 years now.

Where to start? Friends. The friends you make are truly one of a kind. One of my best friends in the world happens to be the kid that was in my bunk in Carmel Boys 1. It was his first year too. He had never been away from home for longer than a weekend and was one of the last ones to arrive. He didn't know anyone and his parents had just left after setting up his stuff and saying their goodbyes. He sat on his bed putting some final things away and straightening up. I went over and introduced myself and offered him a little bit of my candy I snuck in. Let me tell you, that is a BIG thing. He gladly accepted and maybe an hour later, moved up from stranger, to friend, and within a very short matter of time, best friend.

To this day we are the closest of friends. It truly is precious. The strange part was, for years after meeting, we barely talked outside of camp, but when those summer months at camp came around and we saw each other for the first time in 10 months, no time had passed. We picked up right where we left off. Not just him, but every friend I have made at camp along the way. I have friends all over the world because of Harlam's international staff program. I can pretty much close my eyes, point to a random spot on the world map and have a friend in that area. It is incredible. The bond that you form at Camp Harlam with people is like nothing else.

Shabbat is also one of a kind. It is every person's favorite time of the week. The whole camp dresses up in white and walks up to Chapel on the Hill for Friday services. For kids out there who hate going to services at home, trust me, this is different (I was one of you!). Was. At Harlam, you join in song and prayer with your best friends all around you and look out onto the most beautiful scenery you have ever seen. Saturday morning services are held at Chapel in the Woods. Like Chapel on the Hill, it is a completely outdoor sanctuary but this one is in the woods completely surrounded by nature. It is an incredibly intense feeling. You sing and dance with your friends during services. It takes prayer to a whole new level.

There is so much to do at Camp Harlam, including clinics (organized time to learn/improve a sport), chugim (electives that range from arts and crafts to learning how to play the guitar), adventure (mountain biking, climbing, Israeli Scouts), shiur (learning about Torah and Judaism), free/instructional swim, recreational athletics (playing a sport or activity as a bunk), or just hanging out around the bunk.

Camp Harlam has had a huge impact on the person I am today. It has taught me to be independent, courteous, strong (both mentally and physically), open minded, and eager to learn new things. Looking back on my experiences and time at Camp Harlam really makes me realize how much it has helped me as a person. You learn to share, to laugh, to love, to trust, to cry, to laugh, and to learn. You learn to be you. Camp Harlam gives you the opportunity to learn to be yourself and make some incredible friends along the way. Camp Harlam truly is a place where friends become family.

Adam Kaufman

If you are entering third grade and up next summer, any of the above stories could be yours. *Ken y'hi ratzon* – may it be God's will.

*B'shalom u-v'shir,
Cantor Jacquie Shuchat-Marx*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- Friday, 1/4 - Family Shabbat Service – 7:30 p.m.
 Story: “Snow Days”
 ✦ **Birthday Blessings for January**; Candle Lighting 4:24 p.m.
- Saturday, 1/5 - Shabbat Morning Services – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
 Bar Mitzvah: Gergory Duval
- Friday, 1/11 - Shabbat Service – 8:00 p.m.
 Sermon: “The Cruellest Plague”
 Candle Lighting 4:31 p.m.
- Saturday, 1/12 - Shabbat Morning Service – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
- Friday, 1/18 - Shabbat Services:
 7:00 p.m. – “Very Young People’s Shabbat” (20 minutes, for pre-readers)
 8:00 p.m. – Service
 Sermon: “Limitless Joy”
 Candle Lighting 4:39 p.m.
- Saturday, 1/19 - Shabbat Morning Service – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
- Friday, 1/25 - Shabbat Service – 8:00 p.m.
 Sermon: “A Lesson for Temple Leaders – and Others”
 ✦ **Anniversary Blessings for January**; Candle Lighting 4:47 p.m.
- Saturday, 1/26 - Shabbat Morning Services – 10:00 a.m. Minyan Group.
 Bar Mitzvah: Ryan Alves

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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THIS article was written by Rabbi Arnold S. Gluck, © 2007 Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough, NJ. Rabbi Weber asked for permission to reprint it here, and we thank Rabbi Gluck for sharing it with us.

The realities of a healthy spiritual life are akin to those of a healthy relationship like a good marriage. They both have their ups and downs. No one lives in a state of perpetual rapture — not in love and not in faith. Moments of transcendence are infrequent, just as the peak of passion experienced by new lovers comes and goes. Most people are blessed with opportunities to stand at the summit of the mountain, literally and figuratively, but none of us lives there all the time. We must descend to the plain, and, at times, even walk through the valley of the shadow. To expect more of our relationships or of our spiritual lives is to invite disappointment.

What is it, then, that sustains a marriage through the tough times, and what might this teach us about faith? The answer in both instances lies in the power of memory. We remember the peak moments — our wedding day, the births of our children — the times when love was particularly strong. We remember how we were by each other's side in times of loss, disappointment, and challenge, holding each other tight, giving each other the strength to endure. It is too much to ask that the flames of passion will roar at all times, but we can and do continue to be warmed by the memories of our best times, which retain the power to lift our hearts and nourish our souls.

When asked to describe or define their faith, most people will find it difficult and many will find it impossible. Some will deny having faith at all. Yet when asked to identify a time when they felt close to God, or to describe a sacred moment in their lives, most of these same people will have little trouble at all. Moments of grandeur imprint themselves on our souls and endure as a powerful force in our lives as long as we remember them.

As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel put it:

“Belief...depends on memory. ‘I believe’ means: ‘I remember.’ For what is belief? Every one of us, at least once in our lifetime, has been able to perceive the existence of the Creator. Every one of us, at least once, has merited a glimpse of the beauty, the serenity, and the strength, which flow from the souls of those who have walked with God. However, such feelings and inspirations are not common occurrences....Faith means: If you ever once merit that the Hidden One appears to you, be faithful to Him all the days of your life. Faith means: To guard forever the echo which once burst upon the deep recesses of our soul.”

Our contemporary culture places the highest value on that which is new. What happened in the past is past. What is new is what is exciting and invariably better. The latest gadget, the latest fashion, the newest song — all must be had and experienced to feel “with it” and alive. If what you have no longer excites you, the message that surrounds us is, “replace it!” If you are unhappy with your circumstances or your relationships, get rid of them and find something better.

The sad truth about following this advice is that it leads to serial disillusionment. Nothing and no one will thrill us forever and at all times. No human being is constant enough in his or her emotions to maintain that kind of excitement for very long. Our passions ebb and flow; it is unrealistic to expect that one will feel constantly excited about anyone or anything. When people tell me about their emotional or spiritual struggles, the one thing I can tell them with certainty is that the way they are feeling now is not forever. At such times, I urge them to remember their most special moments and to take heart.

Consider the word ‘recollect.’ To re-collect is to reclaim something that is ours that was lost or slipped away. By recollecting great moments, each of us can reclaim the identity of ourself as the person who lived those experiences. Once again, we can feel the power of the emotions we experienced when first we fell in love. Once again, we can sense the aura of a Holy Presence in our lives that seemed so real when we felt touched by God.

This is the secret to success and happiness in the affairs of the heart and the life of the spirit: to perpetually renew the memory of holy moments and to honor their memory with heart and soul, and to remain faithful to our loved ones and to God all the days of our lives.

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EDUCATION

From the Desk of Rabbi Shira Stern:

Every year, *TuBishvat* gets easier and easier to celebrate. Because here's the thing: the whole focus of this holiday is planting for the new crops that will emerge in Spring.

Usually, we on the Eastern seaboard of the United States experience the frigid cold of winter, when snow blankets the ground and you can see your warm breath in the icy air. And I always feel a little silly suggesting we do some planting, what with the frozen ground and all.

Yet this year especially, when November temperatures reached 78 degrees, I could almost envision a sunny day warm enough to cut through the earth. Global warming will do that to a planet. This is the reason why on *this Tu Bishvat*, January 22nd, we should all be sitting down to an environmental *seder* instead of dinner.

Judaism teaches us that in the beginning, when God created the earth and all that was in the universe, God decided to keep the earth dormant until human beings were created, because the earth needed caretakers, called *Shomrei Adamah*. In the beautiful *seder* written by Marc Katz and Debra Eichenbaum, we learn that "during Adam's first night in the garden, God took him by the hand and led him to every seed bearing tree telling him, 'See my works, how lovely and praiseworthy they are. All I created, I have created for you. Be careful, though, that you don't ruin or destroy my world, for if you ruin there is no one who will repair it after you.'" (*Kohelet Rabbah* on Eccl. 7:13)

We haven't done such a good job with that warning, but it's not too late. You and I can begin to change the way we think about the world around us. We at TRT began this year by creating our email system to save the reams of paper your kids collect at the bottom of their bookbags. We try to recycle the handouts in class. We try to help you find carpools. Every little bit counts. We have to do this for ourselves, but we **need** most to do it for our children. And the very best way our tradition suggests is sitting down **with them** to this beautiful celebration of all the fruits that grow in the Land of Israel.

Our 5th and 6th graders will spend the evening of *Tu Bishvat* celebrating, but if you would like to do it at home, we will have the service and shopping list that covers all the essentials ready for you to pick up in the office.

Let's not just talk about the problem. Let's do something to reverse it.

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.

KULANU CAMPAIGN

Bima and Sanctuary Renovation Update

During the month of December, the *KULANU* Building Committee continued their work refining the design of the *bima* and sanctuary renovation. The committee presented their recommendations to the TRT Board of Directors at the December 19th board meeting.

The focus of the committee's work in January will be completion of the construction drawing, to be finished by early February. The milestones for February and March will be reviewing bids from contractors, selecting a contractor and submitting our request for a building permit to the Marlboro Township construction department.

Be sure to look for the color rendering of the *bima* and sanctuary anticipated to be on display in mid-February.

KULANU Questions? Comments? Contact Karen Goldstein, at 732-364-8493.

NURSERY SCHOOL

Our Daddy and Me program was a big success. Each dad and child, along with some grandpas, baked Hanukkah cookies to take home. They also made sun catchers with dreidels and Jewish stars. We sang with Rabbi Weber and then ate yummy snacks. Thank you to the following stores for their very generous donations for our Daddy and Me program: Wegmen's, Bagel World and ShopRite.

Our toddlers also baked Hanukkah cookies, painted dreidels and learned many songs to prepare for our Hanukkah party. We made our own drums to help us keep the beat!

Now is the time to enroll for January Mommy and Me classes and also to sign up for Nursery School for September, 2008. You do not have to be a temple member to be part of our nursery school family, so tell your friends about us.

We hope you all had a Happy Hanukkah and we wish you all a Happy New Year. See you in January.

Ms. Ellen and Ms. Randi

It has been a December to remember. We had some wonderful Hanukkah fun. We sang, danced, ate latkes and applesauce, and learned how to play *dreidel*. Rabbi Weber is quite a good *dreidel* teacher. Our dads joined in the fun at Daddy and Me. We have dads who are wonderful bakers and artists and they showed off their talents!

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

Robin Shatsky

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to invite all of our TRT families with toddler-aged children to a dinner prior to the Very Young People's Shabbat Service on Friday, February 15th, at 6:15 p.m. We will be serving chicken nuggets and pasta to all of our toddlers and as always, they will receive special treats at the end of the service. Please call the temple office at 732-308-0055 by Monday, February 11th, to let us know that you will be joining the group. This is open to the entire community so please, bring your friends!

If you are a new TRT member and have not yet picked up your new member's gift, please feel free to stop by the temple office between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to pick up your copy. If this is not convenient, please call the office and they will be happy to make other arrangements.

I hope that everyone has a happy and peaceful New Year!

Marla Bucher

SOCIAL ACTION

It's hard to believe that we have just begun a new calendar year! We hope it was a happy and healthy holiday season for everyone. The committee thanks you for your continued generosity. Our gift collection and coat drive were huge successes. Please note that the **coat collection** box will remain in the atrium through mid-January.

This month the Social Action Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 9th, at 7:15 p.m. Please join us. We plan to discuss new ideas and details for our spring projects. In addition, we are looking ahead to our annual attendance at a Sunday service at the Wicker Baptist Church. This year, we have been invited to join them on February 11, 2008.

Mindy Krull and Shari Canell

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

The Women's Spirituality Group had a wonderful candle-making session in November. Thank you to Maxine Perlman and Sue Stier for all of your help. We made Shabbat and *Havdalah* candles out of beeswax sheets. (You can bring the *havdalah* candle you made or another one to the *Shabbaton*). We will decorate Shabbat candlesticks in March at Club Mud.

We also had a delicious Hanukkah party, gift exchange and chocolate tasting. Thank you to Sherri Hiller for your time and informing us about chocolate.

Our January event is a book discussion of *Kabbalah: A Love Story*, by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. The discussion will be led by Rabbi Shira Stern and Karen Goldstein on January 14, at 7:00 p.m., at the Marlboro Public Library (note earlier time and alternate location).

Women's Spirituality is having a *Shabbaton*, February 8-9. 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-members. Please send your checks, made payable to TRT Women's Spirituality, to the temple office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 732-933-1562, or by email at suziehershman@yahoo.com. We would love to see you there!

Suzie Hershman



Torah Today

A Brief Summary of Each Week's Torah Portion

Shabbat 1/4 - 5 Parashat Va'era, Exodus 6:2-9:35 Summary by Bonnie and Bob Goldschlag

God renews the vow to give Israelites the land of Canaan and promises to free them from the Egyptians. God commands Moses to go to the Pharaoh with his brother Aaron and direct him to let the Israelites go so they can be free to worship God in the wilderness. After the lineage of the Israelite clans is set forth, this section tells of the first eight of the ten plagues that God visited upon the Egyptians when the Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let the Israelites go: the serpent, blood, frogs, lice, swarms of insects, pestilence causing death of the Egyptian's livestock, boils, thunder, lightning and hail.

Shabbat 1/11-12 Parashat Bo, Exodus 10:1-13:16 Summary by Bonnie M. Sugarman

God brings the plague of the locusts to Egypt when Pharaoh refuses to let all the Israelites leave. Pharaoh apologizes, but still refuses to let them take their flocks with them, so God plans the final plague — the slaying of the first-born Egyptians. The Israelites must place blood of a lamb on their doorposts, so God will pass over them when the plague strikes. They are to observe this as a festival, to remember how God brought them out of bondage, and to eat unleavened bread for seven days. The plague comes in the night, and the Israelites quickly depart Egypt after 430 years of slavery.

Shabbat 1/18-19 Parashat Beshalach, Exodus 13:17-17:16 Summary by Cheryl Glasser

God leads the Israelites out of Egypt. Pharaoh finds out, and goes after them. The Israelites see the Egyptians chasing them and fear for their lives. God instructs Moses to split the sea so the Israelites can cross on dry land; and to turn the bitter water sweet, so they can drink it. God tests the Israelites by providing meat and bread so long as they take enough for one day and not save any. When they disobey, the food becomes infested. On the sixth day, they take double so they have enough for the Sabbath and it doesn't spoil.

Shabbat 1/25-26 Parashat Yitro, Exodus 18:1-20:23 Summary by Lois Korman

Moses was responsible for adjudicating all disputes that arose among the people. His father-in-law, Jethro, sees that this was an onerous and virtually impossible task, so he suggests having minor disputes decided by honorable men, with Moses adjudicating only the most difficult issues. Moses does so, thereby alleviating much of his burden as moral guardian.

After traveling for three months, the people arrive at Sinai. Adonai tells Moses to convey, "If you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples." The Israelites must stay pure for two days. On the third day, as they approach Mount Sinai, there is thunder, lightning, a loud blast, and a dense cloud upon the mountain. Adonai allows only Moses and Aaron to come to the mountaintop to receive the Ten Commandments.

*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!

HELP THE JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

One of our TRT students is fundraising for the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County for his Boy Scout Eagle project. He is selling personally-engraved bricks to be laid around a 25-foot flagpole he will install in the front courtyard of the new museum located in The Corner Mount Shopping Center in Freehold. Each brick can be purchased for \$118, and includes a membership to the museum. For further information, please contact Adam Klemons, at 732-577-9580, or at ILVsports@aol.com.

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!

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 BULLETIN

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”

Rabbi Weber thanks Evan Kasakove, Denise Swartz and Una Tedoff, for taking the time to transcribe his High Holiday sermons, so printed copies would be available. If you would like a copy of any of Rabbi Weber's or Rabbi Stern's High Holiday sermons, please call the temple office, at 732-308-0055.

The Social Action Committee would like to thank all of you who participated in our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The Food Bank is especially grateful for our donation. We were successful in collecting over 2,900 pounds of food! Special thanks to Bill Fireman for co-ordinating the event with the time given from Una Tedoff, Laurie Kaufman, Shelley and Marc Willner, Sue Stier, Neal and Ellen Finkelstein, Donna and Kylie Hall, Ron and Jackie Klug, Shari and Lindsay Canell, Suzie Hershman, Karen and Larry Goldstein, Bruce and Sheryl Cooper, Marla Bucher, Geri Kaplan and Mindy and Marissa Krull. We couldn't have done it without you!

CORRECTION

In the program for the Cantor's concert, held in November, we inadvertently omitted several names from the list of sponsors. We apologize to Neal and Ellen Finkelstein, Gerry and Lynn Sternberg and Rich and Nina Grossman for the error. Thank you for your support!

You are Cordially Invited

Please share with us this very special occasion as our son and brother, Gregory, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 5, 2008, at 10:00 am. Please join us for the *oneg* following the service.

Matt, Gigi and Sara Duval

With much love and great pride, we invite you to share with us this very special occasion when our son and brother, Ryan Mark, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 26, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the *oneg* following services.

Paula, Ken, and Ashleigh Alves

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

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

to Pat and Bill Rogove, on the birth and *brit hayyim* of their granddaughter, Samantha Allison Bhola

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Bolender Holocaust Educational Endowment

Marlene and David Shapiro and Family
Susan and Bruce Baron, in memory of Casey Seidenberg

Building Fund

The Schwitz Family, for the *yahrzeit* of Arnold E. Bayer
Marsha Koster, for the *yahrzeit* of Ida Reich

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Mindy and David Krull, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
their daughter Marissa: "Thank you, Cantor, for
your support."

General Fund

The Halpern-Wicks Family, for the *yahrzeit* of
Jennie Baker Cooper
Edward Schlesinger, for the *yahrzeit* of
Hillard Schlesinger
Marcia, Ed, Jason and Dana Falk, for the *yahrzeit* of
Murray Falk
Gail, Jay, Matt, Shane and Alli Davis, for the *yahrzeit* of
Marvin Davis
Marcia Sokal, for the *yahrzeit* of Mildred Litman

Hirsch/Rosen Memorial Youth Fund

Ellen and Neal Finkelstein and Family, for the *yahrzeit*
of Milton Trencher
Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper, for the
yahrzeit of Milton Trencher
Sheila Aptaker, for the *yahrzeit* of Morris Eisner

Israel Scholarship Fund

Loretta and Allen Shapiro, in honor of the birth
of Evan Ganz

Landscaping Fund

Janet and Ira Klemons, in memory of Casey Seidenberg

Mortgage Reduction Fund

Sindy, Louis, Pam, Aimee and Meredith Weiner,
in memory of Leo Shreiber

Nursery School Fund

Sindy, Louis, Pam, Aimee and Meredith Weiner, for the
yahrzeit of Gerald Weiner

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Mindy and David Krull, in honor of Marissa's Bat
Mitzvah, and with thanks for Rabbi Weber's
support
Vera Stern
Carol and Mike Chasin, for the *yahrzeit* of Harry Slove

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund cont'd

Pat and Bill Rogove, in honor of the birth and naming of
our granddaughter, Samantha Allison, and with
our warmest thanks to Rabbi Weber
Lisa and David Wicks and Family, in memory of
Gladys Cooper
Steve, Liza and Adam Kaufman, for the *yahrzeit* of
Leonard E. Kaufman
Toni and Sarah Cooper, for the *yahrzeit* of
Antoinette Arciola
Barry, Elise and Jennifer Kaye, for the *yahrzeit* of
Harry Kaye
Paula, Jay, Beth and Scott Kanofsky, for the *yahrzeit* of
Stuart Sharenow
Jeff and Marjorie Stevens, for the *yahrzeit* of
Neal Stevens
for the *yahrzeit* of A. Leon Futterman
Bernice and Lew Levison, for the *yahrzeit* of
Nicole Heather Levison
for the *yahrzeit* of William H. Levison

Religious School Fund

Susan Stier, in honor of the engagement of
Jeremy Levine and Ms. Sara Bilovsky
The Derris family, for the *yahrzeit* of Pearl Rosenstock
Miriam Koppel, for the *yahrzeit* of Virginia Maravent
for the *yahrzeit* of Zahava Siegel

Social Action Fund

The Bucher family, for the *yahrzeit* of James E. Mack
The Mack family, for the *yahrzeit* of James E. Mack
David, Mindy and Marissa Krull, for the *yahrzeit* of
Hyman Krull
The Klug Family, for the *yahrzeit* of
Hans Michael Rosenow
Rachel, Jeffrey, Erik, Jake and Emily Fleischman,
in honor of the troops in Iraq
Sandra von der Fecht, for the *yahrzeit* of George Wood
Susan and Bruce Baron, in memory of Blanche Reich

Temple Improvement and Beautification Fund

Sandy, Richard, Janna and David Craig, for the *yahrzeit*
of Ruth Agress
for the *yahrzeit* of Gussie Schwalbe
Sheryl, Bruce, Jonathan and Michelle Cooper,
in memory of Leo Shreiber

A New Plaque On Our Tree of Life Has Been Dedi- cated By:

Wendy, Michael and Kayla Friedman, in honor of the
Bar Mitzvah of Josh Friedman

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 1/4-1/5		
1/1	Stephen T. Jacobs	Cousin of Henry Levenstein
1/1	Jennie Moskowitz	Great Aunt of Josephine Paltin
1/1	David Solomon	Father of Herb Solomon ז"ל
1/1	Celia Steinberg	Grandmother of Marsha Koster
1/2	Hilda Alpert	Mother of Zalma Gelber, Grandmother of Geri Anne Kaplan
1/2	Tillie Bromberg Bayer *	Grandmother of Mark Schwitz
1/2	Dennis Mack *	Brother of Marla Bucher
1/2	Max Silverman	Father of Larry Silverman
1/3	Sylvia Rothman Burris	Mother of Allen Rothman
1/3	Annie Levitt	Great-Grandmother of Sharon Solar
1/4	Frances Friedman *	Aunt of Brian Block, Great-Aunt of Michael, Cory and Orin Block
1/4	Lillian Korkes	Great-Aunt of Randy Cranin
1/4	Donald Malick *	Uncle of Myrna Kluger
1/5	Bolender Family *	Family of Marlene Shapiro
1/5	Oscar Feld *	Father of Louis Feld, Ellen Block and Nadine Sherman
1/5	Herman Leonard Ginsberg	Father of Alan Ginsberg
1/5	Fae Sherry	Grandmother of Roxanne Moskowitz
1/5	Anne Sommer *	Aunt of Richard Klapman
Shabbat Observance 1/11-1/12		
1/6	Dr. Robert P. Crain *	Father of Janet Klemons
1/6	Stephen J. Derris *	Brother of Sandy Derris
1/6	Sari Graber *	God Daughter of Bruce and Susan Baron
1/6	Clara Magazine *	Mother of Maxine Herzog
1/6	Ruth Pines *	Mother of Judy Freilich
1/6	William Ringer	Father of Arlene Agulnick
1/7	Sidney Albert	Father of Jaime Albert
1/7	Samuel Cooper *	Grandfather of Brian Halpern and Lisa Halpern-Wicks
1/7	Lester Lazarus Goldberg *	Father of Keith Goldberg
1/7	Gerald David Goldsmith *	Uncle of Chuck Kavitsky
1/7	Rose Siegel	Grandmother of Andrea Goutter
1/8	Sam Berger	Father of Judy Goldberg
1/8	Norman Kasendorf	Father of Sarah Rubin
1/8	Dorothy Sherman	Mother of Barbara Hirsch
1/9	Abraham Cohen	Father of Marc Cohen
1/9	Sylvia Finkelstein	Mother of Jane Klein
1/9	Jacob Fox	Father of Steven Fox
1/10	Bernard Fleigel	Uncle of Helene Kaplan
1/10	Sonya S. Grossman *	Mother of Richard Grossman
1/10	Rose Herman	Grandmother of Barry Kaye
1/10	Dave Jewell	Friend of Irvin and Judy Freilich
1/10	Edith Rosen	Mother of Ronnie Geringer

1/10	Jack Waldman	Father of Ann Goldstein
1/11	Blanche Akselrad *	Mother of Phyllis Levenstein
1/11	Milli Friedeman	Mother of Les Friedman
1/11	Ruth Heidt	Mother of Maurice Heitt
1/11	Selma Jakubowicz	Mother of Rosa Weiner
1/11	Blanche Levy	Aunt of Louis Weiner
1/11	Sam Rubin	Father of Ira Rubin
1/12	Richard Baron	Brother of Bruce Baron
1/12	Sally Sundel	Great-Aunt of Sindy Weiner

Shabbat Observance 1/18-1/19

1/13	Mildred Gecht	Mother of Deborah Hoffman
1/13	Tedi Kenoff	Friend of Arlene Agulnick
1/13	Elise K. Krull	Sister of David Krull
1/13	Eugene Landesman *	Father of Mark Landesman
1/13	Leon Levine *	Father of Robert Levine
1/13	William Phillips	Father of Barbara Kurnit
1/14	Abe Brandes	Father of Ronda Binkowitz
1/14	Alex Z. Norber *	Father of Dan Norber
1/15	Robert De La Torre	Godfather of Jonathan and Michelle Cooper
1/15	Natalie DiFazio	Mother of Anthony DiFazio
1/15	Polina Murakhovsky	Mother of Anna Murakhovsky Abramzon
1/15	Max Orlin	Father of Elaine Gallant
1/16	Jack Fireman	Father of William Fireman
1/16	Shelly Kret	Friend of Loretta Shapiro
1/16	David Dewey Seifter *	Grandfather of Roberta Rafaloff, Father of Shirley Newman ל"י
1/16	Sarah Waldman	Mother of Ann Goldstein
1/17	Fred Morgan	Uncle of Ingrid DiFazio
1/17	Sarah Wechter	Great Aunt of Phyllis Krauss
1/18	Morris Gelber	Father of Bernard Gelber, Grandfather of Geri Anne Kaplan
1/18	Sheldon Heitner	Father of Harry Heitner
1/18	Philip Lester	Grandfather of Jay Davis
1/19	Fanny Alderman	Great-Aunt of Geri Anne Kaplan
1/19	Nettie Douger	Grandmother of Robbin Friedell
1/19	Fred Zeltzer *	Uncle of Ellen Levine

Shabbat Observance 1/25-1/26

1/20	Gertrude Blank *	Mother of Ellen Zipkin
1/20	Daniel Shephard Goldenberg *	Father of Bess Goldenberg
1/20	Benjamin Kanofsky	Father of Jay Kanofsky
1/20	Ella Marx	Grandmother of Cantor Jacquie Shuchat-Marx
1/20	O. Winslow Owens	Father of Carol Zaitz
1/21	Samuel Gary Giddins	Father of Joan Ruffine
1/21	Robert Lev	Uncle of Marc Willner
1/22	Simon James Beizer	Grandfather of Suzanne Hershman
1/22	Anna Goldberg	Mother of Linda Wainick
1/22	Carlee Alyse Wines *	Dear Friend of Mark and Lynne Schwitz
1/23	Ida Aronowitz	Grandmother of Joan Ruffine
1/23	Harold Jacobson *	Father of Jo-Ellen Landesman
1/23	Fritz Lieber	Father of Harvey Lieber

1/23	Michael Silver	Brother of Allan Silver
1/23	Anna Wotman	Grandmother of Ronda Binkowitz
1/25	Max Gross	Uncle of Ruth Kaufman
1/26	William Goldstein	Father of Steven Goldstein
1/26	Chester Horn	Uncle of Karen Goldstein
 Shabbat Observance 2/1-2/2		
1/27	Robert Altman	Brother of Judy Wiskin
1/27	Daniel Bauer	Father of Carol Castro
1/27	Lee Cooper *	Father of Sarah Cooper, Husband of Toni Cooper, Member of Temple Rodeph Torah
1/27	Abraham Kazin	Grandfather of Alan Kazin
1/27	Bertram Klein	Father of Jon Klein
1/27	Alvin Weiner *	Father of Barbara Rubel
1/27	Max Wortman	Father of Miriam Koppel
1/28	Stan Martin	Uncle of Scott Levy
1/28	Jennie Rosenhock	Grandmother of Neal Finkelstein
1/28	Vincent Vaccarella	Father of Rosemary Calman
1/29	Ruth Berger *	Mother of Judy Goldberg, wife of Samuel Berger ל"ה
1/29	Hugo Gleich	Father of Stuart Gleich
1/29	Jacob Kaplan	Grandfather of Michael Kaplan
1/30	Richard Dickerman	Father of Jeffrey Dickerman
1/30	Claire Kaden *	Mother of Randi Sorin
1/30	Lena Kargman	Grandmother of Judith Borell
1/31	Jack Salkin	Grandfather of Karen Goldstein

* 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.

