

Apr 2008 **Newsletter** *Adar II/Nisan 5768*

Temple *Sholom* of Floral Park

263-10 Union Turnpike, Floral Park, NY 11004 718-343-8660

www.templesholom.info

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

Paul Trolio, President

Ruth Gerver, Exec. Vice President

*affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism
patron of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion*

Services and Events

Friday, Apr. 4 *Shabbat* service 6:30PM, Dinner 7:30pm

Saturday, Apr. 5 Religious School Program 10am

Friday, Apr. 11 *Shabbat* service 8pm with student Cantor

Friday, Apr. 18 *Shabbat Torah* service 8pm

Saturday, Apr. 19 *Shabbat* service followed by *Torah* study 10am

Saturday, Apr. 19 *Pesach* begins at sundown

Sunday, Apr. 20 Second night Seder at Temple Sholom 6pm

Friday, Apr. 25 *Shabbat* service 8pm - Birthday blessings

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

It is always sad and difficult when we lose a member of our congregational family, a member of our own family, or one close to us. Jewish custom and law have guidelines, prescriptions, and those things that are proscribed for when death occurs. I cannot detail it all here but, I remind you to get in touch with me as soon as possible if you want me to officiate for you - a service which you are entitled to as a Temple member. Remember, I am only at the Temple part-time so please do not hesitate to call me at my home office at any hour for this emergency. I will also always be available to talk with you when you are going through the difficult time of illness yourself or with someone you know.

I have information to share with you about the procedures at death. I have purchased a book for you that sets out our obligations according to Jewish heritage. It will be available at *Oneg* on the small table where I put out other items of interest. Please take one per family. This is not the only information I have for you. You can come to me about the form of the memorial stone, *yahrzeit*, unveiling *etc.*

When our hearts are filled with sorrow our tradition can bring great comfort. Please let me help. May God keep our loved ones safe and in good health.

We had a wonderful *Purim*. Thanks to all who participated.

A zeesen pesach!

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

A call for prayer books - if you have any blue *Gates of Prayer* at home that belong to the Temple, please return them. We are in need of them. If you have any Red *Torah Commentaries* that belong to the Temple, we would like those back too. Thank you.

Rabbi Becker is only at the Temple Office part time. Please call at her home office: 212 865-5050 or send her an e-mail (rskb@aol.com) to make an appointment with her or to change an appointment you have with her.

If you need to reach Rabbi Becker in an emergency call her at her home office.

PLEASE do not set the time of a funeral, at which you want her to officiate, before contacting her.

On the third Saturday morning of each month at 10am, we have an informal service, followed by a sweet *kiddush* and we continue with *Torah* study. You don't have to know Hebrew for these sessions to learn and enjoy *Torah*. You are cordially invited to join us - please RSVP to the office.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I have been the President of our Temple for close to 9 months and I have to admit that there have been things that have occurred during this period that have shocked me to the point of real consternation just as often as there have been things that have occurred that have made me smile as broadly and as warmly as I would during those wonderful moments that life has given me with Roni and our family.

Unquestionably the very best thing about serving all of you during this time is the incredible new relationships that Roni and I have made; and the new relationships we continue to make which will likely grow deeper over time; and how these relationships have enriched our lives so wonderfully, so unexpectedly during a time in our lives when we already felt sufficiently enriched by our family and long-term friends.

If I dwell on the very difficult challenges that we have faced during this period, I might approach things in a more cold and detached way, so I try not to dwell on them. If I dwell on the difficult conversations that we have had in the past or dwell on

the times when we have treated each other so badly I just wanted to cry out; it just might be too much for me to handle. Like any successful relationship, I need a shallow memory for the sour and a deep memory for the sweet.

I often dwell in introspection and it is during these times that I often find answers - albeit not always the right ones - for many of my more difficult questions. A recent introspective journey into the abyss led me to conclude that the most difficult aspect of this time for me is how I manage myself. Many of you, who have gotten to know me, realize that I struggle often and mightily in the prioritization of my life. Intellectually and emotionally my priorities are always clear and in order, but many times I miss the mark in their pragmatic application. I am to a great degree comforted by the fact that you recognize this in me, because this is likely no different than your own struggles of priority in your own lives.

Over the past several months the demands on my time from business have increased dramatically and two weeks ago my travels featured 6 flights in four days featuring four meetings all during days that lasted from the dark dawn hours into the deep reaches of the night. The crown jewel and final leg of this journey was Jet Blue's appropriately named "red eye" flight from Long Beach, California to JFK in New York which allowed me to arrive home on Friday morning in time to have breakfast with Roni before she went to work and me to bed.

Managing the logistics of being away for this particular four-day stretch at both work and at the Temple created difficult challenges that impacted every aspect of our life's priorities. This created several moments of uncertainty that I assume we all have from time to time which sounds like - is all of this workable? Is all of this manageable? Needless to say the mental and emotional tumult was like a second piece of carry-on luggage that you just don't need to be lugging around for four days.

I don't know if any of you remember that most of my column last month was a letter that began with the salutation, Dear God:

"Face time", that's an odd description for having a conversation with you because we really don't know what you look like, or do we?

You could have been the homeless person downtown needing money for a hot meal; you could have been the baggage handler; the security person; or the pilot at the airport; you could be almost anyone on television; and I am really hoping that you are not any of the political candidates whom we have seen far too much of lately. You could certainly be the mother holding her son's hand or the father holding his daughter's hand.

I didn't realize how true or how quickly these words would be used to identify two harbingers of a decidedly real life manifestation of God for me - Lenny and Susie both flight attendants on my outgoing Jet Blue Flight #181 from New York to San Diego - on just one of the six flights in four days. It was Susie, who originally relayed

the story to her crewmates, and it was Lenny who recounted it on this flight and all of the other flights that Lenny alone; and Lenny and Susie work as well. Lenny masterfully weaves this delightful tale into his crew's pre-flight announcements with the final line always being met with grateful acknowledgement and a spontaneous smattering of applause.

In Lenny's words:

On the last day of every semester, this college professor wheels in a little table to the front of the classroom. Sitting on top of the table, is a very large food service size mayonnaise jar; which sits next to a bucket of golf balls; with the bucket of golf balls sitting next to an item hidden under a dark cloth; and that item is sitting next to another item hidden under a dark cloth; and that item is sitting next to two cans of beer. So from left to right you have the Mayonnaise jar; the bucket of golf balls; the two items hidden under a dark cloth and two beers.

The professor takes the bucket of balls and fills the mayonnaise jar up to the top and it does not appear that there is room for any more golf balls. The professor then asks the class, is the jar full? The students tired after a long semester, grumble back an answer of yes.

Then the professor takes the dark cloth off the next item and it exposes a jar of very small stones. The professor pours the small stones into the Mayonnaise jar and they all find their way into the spaces between the golf balls. Now the professor has the students' attention. The professor then asks the students, is the jar filled now? More alertly, the students say yes, but with some hesitation realizing that there are probably two items left.

Then the professor whipped off the next dark cloth exposing another same size Mayonnaise jar filled with sand the professor begins to pour the sand into the jar that has the golf balls and the small stones. Much but certainly not all of the sand finds its way into spaces not taken up by the golf balls or the stones and the professor continues to pour sand until the golf balls, the small stones and the sand all are resting almost flush to the top of the mayonnaise jar.

By now the class did not have to be asked if they thought the jar was full especially after the professor had already cracked open the two cans of beer; started pouring the beer into the mixture; with everyone seeing the beer absorbed by the previously dry mixture in the jar.

Then the professor asked the class what did this all mean? Dumbfounded, the class looked back without saying a word, so the professor told them.

The empty mayonnaise jar is your life. The golf balls represent the big things; the most important things in your life like health; your family; your friends; your home – not your house - God and who you are as a person.

The rocks represent the next important things in your life like your career; your job; your co-workers and everything else that is important that you wouldn't consider golf balls... and the sand represents all of the small stuff – all of the filler that sits in the gaps of the most important and the important stuff in your life.

And the beer represents the concept that you should not let your life get so full that you don't have time to kick back, relax, and enjoy a couple of beers. So sometime over the next several hours, you might just want to kick back, relax and just enjoy the flight.

The reaction from the passengers was thunderous applause as the captain requested that the flight attendants be seated in preparation for take off. I smiled broadly and applauded along with everyone else. As the applause died down and as the plane taxied to its take-off runway, I closed my eyes and began another letter:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving me a wife, family and friends who accept the fact that I have screwed up my mayonnaise jar a few times and have allowed me on several occasions to dump everything out so that I could start all over...

Shalom,

Paul

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hello all,

We meet for only two more Saturday mornings at 10am. Please remember attendance is mandatory on:

April 5

May 3

We continue meeting every Tuesday between now and April 15. We will be off April 22nd for *Pesach* vacation. We are back again on April 29th and finish our year on May 20th.

Please reserve Sunday May 18 for our annual school trip - details to come.

Please reserve Friday evening, May 23rd, for a special *Shabbat* service honoring our students on their achievements.

As always, I welcome your calls and/or e-mail for any question or clarification.

Please: on any Tuesday if you know your child will be absent, leave a message on the Temple answering machine for me. It is obviously helpful to know not to expect a student.

Rabbi Becker

rskb@aol.com

212 865-5050 home office

*******SISTERHOOD NEWS*******

On March 15th a group of Temple Sholom Sisters went to a *Shabbaton* at Congregation *Rodeph Sholom*, in Manhattan. We entered the building and we were in awe of their sanctuary. It is very large and is beautifully adorned. Our *Shabbaton* was held in the 6th floor chapel. In attendance at the morning service were Sisterhood members from District 3 as well as some congregants. It was interesting to participate in a worship service that was not our own. Some differences included attendees covering their eyes during the *Shema* and others were using the movements of traditional Jews. Rabbi Carole Balin was the Scholar in Residence.

Her topic was, Reform is a Verb: Diversity and change in The Reform Movement. She spoke about the history of Sisterhood, and how the women have spurred many changes in Reform Judaism. We studied the *Torah* portion of the week using 3 different *Torah* Commentaries. A 1981 and a 2005 commentary by Rabbi Plaut, (we use the 1981) and the new Women's Commentary, 2008. It was really very interesting to see how the *Torah* portion can be seen through different eyes. We all enjoyed the day and meeting women from all over the district.

The Sisterhood trip to the Holocaust Center, in Glen Cove, will be scheduled after their renovations are completed. Please read your mail for information about the new date.

We are planning a year end dinner for May. As soon as the plans are firmed up, we will tell you all about it.

Dale, Gerty and Maxine Your Sisterhood
Presidents

Please remember to bring your Sisterhood Dues of \$36 for Temple members and \$50 for non-Temple members.

Look later in this newsletter for information on **Sisterhood's Ongoing *Mitzvah* Projects**

2008 - 59th Annual Journal

Luncheon at Towers on the Green
Sunday June 8, 2008, 1PM to 5PM.

Honorees - Ruth Gerver & Byron Dressner.

Contact your friends and business associates for their participation. Your support is needed for this Journal - be an advertiser or even an anonymous donor and 15% of your ads will go towards the cost of our luncheon which

will be a bountiful and scrumptious Dairy Buffet costing \$70 per person.

Deadline for Journal ads is May 28, 2008 with no exceptions. Mark your calendars for June 8, get ads, make a luncheon reservation and join your Temple family to celebrate 59 years of Temple Sholom. Any questions, call Maxine 718-631-4696.

ONEG:

Mae Rossin 718-359-0297

Dale Demner 718-343-8037

Sponsoring an *Oneg Shabbat* is really easy. Just call Dale Demner at 1-718-343-8037 and pick a *Shabbat* date. Share your *simcha* with all your friends at the Temple. The cost is \$60 (without a sheet cake). The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$35.

Please note: The cost of sponsoring an *Oneg Shabbat* has increased, effective April 1st. The new donation is \$60 without a sheet cake. Our costs have been going up for the past year and we can no longer provide the goodies we all enjoy for the old cost. Several families may combine their *simchas* and perhaps we will be able to celebrate more frequently. We hope our members will continue to contribute to the *Oneg* Fund through out the year.

Happy April Birthday to...

Harold Abramowitz Maxine Baden

Rose Geringer Danielle Jacobs

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|--------------|-------------------|
| Lori Kisting | David Kisting |
| Vicki Nieter | Junko Savage |
| Jessica Sher | Andrew Spiegelman |
| Anne Sundack | Marc Turin |

Happy April Anniversary to...

Debbie & Harold Abramowitz
Bernard & Lorraine Bragin
Mollie & William Rogers
Harvey & Joan Schuster
Ann & Stan Strauss
Rabbi & Marty Becker

(If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know)

Purim at Temple Sholom

It was the 14th of *Adar* and all through the synagogue everyone was stirring and the noise was deafening as it is supposed to be. The Temple was filled with very happy children and adults, crazy hats, groggers (noisemakers) for those of you who aren't regular *Purim* celebration attendees. We even had a visit from "Superboy" dressed in bright red velvet shorts with a beautiful matching red yarmulke. Strangely, he had a beard but instead of the required kryptonite he had this very modern elaborate camera. We had cowboys, cowgirls in their boots, basketball players in those shorts that are too long, a French maid, baseball fans sporting team logos, strange get-ups hard to define and people who came to the celebration in regular clothes, but always with a twist. We even had a sinister looking *HAMAN*(boo) with his three cornered hat, but he was kept under control by Rabbi Becker. We had the cast from "My Fair Lady" singing their signature song "Get Me to the *Shul* on Time" assisted by the famous Temple Sholom singers and Barbara Fleisher's wonderful guitar strumming and perfect musical

accompaniment. We had those wonderful Temple Sholom youngsters who were part of the well-rehearsed *Purim Spielers* cast. They were all delightfully costumed. One of them had an elaborately made fake nose from wardrobe especially contoured so as not to interfere with his reading of part of the *Megillah*, (English version). The youngster group sported their weird hats and costumes that fit into the text. The lay readers who read the glorious story of Queen Ester right among the congregants added a personal touch. And of course Rabbi Becker reading from what appeared to be and sounded like an ancient scroll brought the religiosity into the celebration. If you think about it, Queen *Vashti's* defiant (woman's choice) standing up to King *Ahashverous*, in refusing to attend the banquet started the *Purim* saga. Did you know that Queen Ester was only 14 years old and agreed to fast three days? Try that with today's teenagers. And did you know, according to him, ha, that he the king he did not have the power to reverse his awful 13th of *Adar* decree to have all the Jews Killed? Who was he kidding about his inability to reverse a decree? However, as a reward to Ester and Mordechai for saving his life, he magnanimously, ha, allowed the Jews to fight their enemies to survive. He allowed them to go to war. (great reward, ha.). They did and thankfully survived. The service ended in song and no Jewish fun service ends without food. It included traditional three cornered Hamantashen, and lots of other goodies. It was a truly fun evening which is also decreed, not like the King's seemingly questionable irreversible decree.

Congratulations to Corey Bearak on his recent Award from Queens Region Hadassah.

Thank you Temple Sholom

It is with great appreciation that I relate how deeply touched I feel with respect to the numerous phone calls and inquiries regarding my recent episode at Shabbat across America. I thank each and every one of you who called and asked about my health and how I am doing. For the record, I am OK, and have learned a valuable lesson in moderation.

Above all, I thank those of you who demonstrated cool heads and quick thinking. I saw years of training and the exercise of knowledge that is there to save lives. It was certainly my first experience to receive this type of attention. Thank you.

In the near future, Dale and I will be back for services and other Temple activities. I hope to see all of you very soon and thank you personally.

Jerry Demner

Yahrzeit Donations

In Memory of: Remembered by:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Sarah Goldman | Hermine Elias |
| Leonard H. Schoen | Hermine Elias |
| Norman Elias | Hermine Elias |

If your Yahrzeit donation was received after we went to press, it will be included in the next issue.

General Fund

- Donation from Hermine Elias to wish Maxine Baden good health and a happy birthday.
- Donation from Florence & Nat Ginsberg in memory of Selma Rosen

- Donation from Shirley Snyder in memory of Selma Rosen
- Donation from Florence & Nat Ginsberg in memory of Daniella Printz's mother Margaret
- Donation from Florence & Nat Ginsberg in memory of Janet Friedland's mother Anne Stein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Donation from Mae Rossin -"Thank you for giving me a reading part at *Purim*"
- Donation from Hermine Elias to wish Rabbi and Marty Becker a happy anniversary.

If your donation was received after we went to press, it will be included in the next issue.

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Karla on Stage!

Karla Osuna will be performing a leading role in the BroadHollow Theatre production of "Arsenic and Old Lace". This promises to be a professional production in one of Long Island's finest regional theatres. Show dates are April 19th thru May 4th. Fridays (4/25, 5/2) and Saturdays (4/19, 4/26, 5/3) at 8:00 pm. Sundays (4/20, 4/27, 5/4) at 2:30 pm. On Wed., 4/30, both a 2:00 and 8:00 pm show. The BroadHollow Theatre is at 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont (located in the new Elmont Library just past Home Depot). If anyone is interested in tickets or more information, see Karla (or email her at kdosuna@yahoo.com). The earlier you reserve, the better the seats.

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From the NEQJCC

Sunday May 18, 2008 - 13 Iyar 5768
Legislative Forum 2008: "Real Property Tax Reform"

9:30 a.m. at Samuel Field Y
58-20 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck, NY 11362

For information, call (718) 225-6750x247

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NORC-WOW News

NORC Support Group meetings in the Temple Social Hall on Fridays 9:15 to 11:30.

Arthritis Exercise classes on Fridays at 10:30AM.

A Reminder!

Memorialize your loved ones by putting up a bronze *yahrzeit* plaque on our Memorial Board in the sanctuary. In this beautiful way, your loved ones will be remembered by you, and the *yahrzeit* will be recognized each year at services by the Rabbi. You will be notified in advance of the anniversary date each year, so that you may attend.

The price of each engraved plaque is \$150. If you desire a 24-inch plaque at the bottom of the board, the cost is \$1000.

For further information on any plaques call Harriet Peaceman at (718) 343-6444.

Phone Squad List

To all congregants: Our e-mail communication list is in place. PLEASE CHECK YOUR E-MAIL DAILY. All those who haven't given me their e-mail address will get a phone call.

Ruth: 718-343-4239

**The Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 18th. Leave all contributions in the Newsletter mailbox or email to newsletter@templesholom.info
THANK YOU, Gary Savage**

If you have Internet access and can read the newsletter on your computer instead of getting a copy via the post office, send a note to newsletter@templesholom.info and we will e-mail you when the newsletter is ready. It will save us time, printing costs, and postage.

Bring in your used inkjet and laser cartridges - all brands. It's an easy fundraiser. Our recycler, Cartridge World at 2052 Hillside Avenue, pays us for each cartridge.

Please call the Temple on the first of each month if you want to keep a name(s) on the "get-well-list" recited at Friday services. Names are listed for one month only and are not carried over unless you call. Call at any time to add names.

NOTE: The *mishebeirach* list is published each week in our *Shabbat* service booklet. Please be sure any name(s) you list may be made public. If you would like to add a name but prefer to keep the identity unknown, you can submit the name in Hebrew *e.g.*, *Yitzhak ben Avraham v'Sarah*. In this way the name can be made public but the identity will remain private.

Sisterhood's Ongoing *Mitzvah* Projects -- Please bring in any old eyeglasses. Sisterhood is continuing to send them on to needy people through *New Eyes for the Needy* a non-profit, volunteer organization. Since its founding in 1932, New Eyes has helped over 7 million poor people by recycling used glasses overseas and

purchasing new prescription eyeglasses for needy Americans.

Please also bring in old watches, broken costume jewelry, single earrings, pins, broken necklaces. These are used for many different projects for handicapped workers. Ask your friends and relatives for any of these items. There is a container for these objects on the magazine rack in the Social Hall. Our grateful thanks to all who have given, please continue to donate.

In addition - if you have small shampoos, lotions, shower caps, mouthwash that you get from hotels and your other travels, could you bring them to Temple? There is a box marked for these items. Gerty Wolf will take these items to the Ronald McDonald House for the children and their families. Thank you in advance.

Clothes Needed for needy families. The Jewish Community Council of Crown Heights, Brooklyn collects and distributes clothes. Clothes must be clean and can be put in plastic bags or on hangers. Please do not make the bags too heavy to handle. No shoes.

Please call Charles Fine (Gerty Wolf's friend) at 718-225-4272. He will make arrangements to deliver them to Brooklyn. Thank you.

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