

Temple *Sholom* of Floral Park

263-10 Union Turnpike, Floral Park, NY 11004 718-343-8660 www.templeholom.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*

*The Sisterhood of Temple Sholom invites you to a special **Breakfast With the Arts** featuring a program on Jewish Art and Jewish Artists. The program, presented by Stan and Ann Strauss, is on Sunday, April 26 at 10 am. Breakfast is \$5.00. Reservations are a must. Call the Temple Office by April 21st*

Friday, Apr 3	6:30pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service, 7:30pm dinner
Wednesday, Apr 8	Passover begins at sundown
Friday, Apr 10	8pm <i>Shabbat</i> service
Friday, Apr 17	8pm <i>Shabbat</i> service w/ <i>Torah</i>
Saturday, Apr 18	10am <i>Shabbat</i> service and <i>Torah</i> study
Friday, Apr 24	8pm <i>Shabbat</i> service – Birthday blessings
Wednesday, Apr 29	<i>Yom HaAtzma-ut</i> (Israel Independence Day)
Friday, May 1	6:30pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service, 7:30pm dinner
Friday, May 8	8pm <i>Shabbat</i> service
Friday, May 15	8pm <i>Shabbat</i> service w/ <i>Torah</i>
Saturday, May 16	10am <i>Shabbat</i> service and <i>Torah</i> study
Friday, May 22	8pm <i>Shabbat</i> service - students participate <i>Yom Yerushalayim</i> Day
Thur. May 28	<i>Shavuot</i> begins at sundown
Fri. May 29	8pm <i>Shabbat</i> service of Healing

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Many times you have heard me speak of the URJ, the Union for Reform Judaism. This is our umbrella administrative organization to which we pay MUM dues – “maintenance of union membership” monies that support staff and programs. The URJ is also a “patron of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion”, the seminary from which I was ordained, the school that trains Reform rabbis.

The union is currently undergoing vast reorganization at this time but an active New York City office will remain in place. This is important because they offer so much assistance to you as a member congregation for free! They offer speakers and scholars for free; you can have help from knowledgeable individuals with experience in programming, reaching out to potential members, assistance with the work that the Temple Board and committees need to accomplish, all at no cost to you. And especially, you are entitled to a tremendous amount of support as the Temple builds and relocates. The union has free

consultation with architects and other professionals familiar with construction and decoration of sacred and Temple space. Of course they will always defer to your wishes, they are a resource not an arbiter of what you will become.

As the new building of Temple *Shalom* is a daunting task, I hope you will take advantage of what URJ offers you. Congregations building anew or refurbishing are doing amazing things in their sanctuary, classroom and public spaces. Congregations are “going green”, helping the environment; lowering heating and electric costs, putting innovative systems into place. They are installing movable seating in their sanctuaries so that a small group of worshippers won’t feel as if they are “rattling” around a big sanctuary, yet that seating accommodates all who would come and worship as numbers change. Incidentally movable seating does not mean uncomfortable chairs, it means couch-like and love seat-like pews that can be anchored when in use but movable when needed. And this holds true for utilizing other space in the building to its utmost. In Pennsylvania, I served a congregation with movable doors that could create an intimate social space for a small gathering in part of the Social Hall but opened to the huge space when desired. And, finally, a word about the *bimah*. By custom we raise our *bimah*, so we “go up” to the ark but this “rise” need be only a simple incline. New designs for the *bimah* may have only a very gentle slope that is only slightly above the seated congregation – no need for steps at all! The entire *bimah* is open so all may reach the ark from the sanctuary without special ramps being built. It is a wonderful advance in architecture that demonstrates how welcoming a congregation can be, an accommodation actually for all who would participate in the service. Most importantly, a *bimah* like this does not single out anyone with an infirmity or disability. As you continue to plan, I hope you will think “2009, 5769”- about the exciting possibilities that have come to Temple design and construction.

As this is the last column I will write as your rabbi, I tell you that each congregation I have been with has taught me valuable lessons and enriched my rabbinate. My time with you adds to that experience. Thank you.

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

Rabbi Becker is only at the Temple Office part time. Please call at her home office: 212 877-3036 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

I have always thought of Passover as a very visual holiday. There seems to be an unbroken image from the historical events that Passover commemorates to the

site of the flat bread from our ancestors to our tables today that in our haste to leave had no time to rise. We seem be able to visualize how our ancestors were instructed to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a spring lamb, so that the spirit of Adonai would pass over these homes killing only the first born sons of Egypt. The ensuing exodus and how we got out of Egypt as quickly as possible without even the Red Sea deterring our Pilgrimage to the Promised Land. And we all know what happens from there. Passover, beyond its core historical significance is one of the festivals, one of the time periods when our people would often make pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem

Maybe we should thank Hollywood producers, directors and cinematographers for these lush and vibrant images of our people. Or maybe we should thank our own deep connection to this season with only our mind's eye fueling the images of our real and metaphorical family journey which is the essence of who we are as a people. Our pilgrimage now is highlighted by building and traveling with our families through life; looking at how we can improve our life's experience; and if we choose, marking our and our family's life cycle events in the Temples and Synagogues where we worship.

If we want to continue to have the option of celebrating Shabbat, all of our holidays, festivals and commemorating the life cycle events that we do in our Temples and Synagogue we need to make one more pilgrimage.

There were two things that struck me recently that brought into clear focus the problem that not only we, but all our congregations face in our effort to survive. The first was an envelope crossed my desk from Brown, Harris and Stevens; I opened it and printed across the top of the page were the words we have seen with increasing frequency over the past several years: "Synagogue Buildings for Sale". A few days later, I noticed an email from someone lamenting the fact that they were concerned that they would no longer be able to afford the \$28,000 per year per child tuition in Hebrew School for their two children at a Reform Congregation in Manhattan. Yes, you read that right, \$56,000 per year for their children in Hebrew School.

Over the past decades, the demographics of our neighborhoods have changed at a rapid pace. Outpacing this change is the drop in the number of Temples and Synagogues due to dissolutions, liquidations and mergers as well as the number of Jews actually belonging to congregations. Not only are our numbers decreasing, we have stopped belonging to congregations at a much faster rate than either the changing demographics or the closing rate of our Temples and Synagogues. This is due to a number of factors, all of which most of you know all too well.

Eighteen months ago, the members of Temple Sholom voted unanimously - with one abstention - to begin the process of rebuilding our Temple. While other congregations have been merging; closing; selling off their assets; and abandoning their Queens neighborhoods in record numbers, we have decided to re-launch our congregation in the same Queens neighborhood, just at a different location.

Many who have heard of our plans to build the new Temple Sholom in the same neighborhood have wondered about the wisdom - or let's call it what many are really calling it - the sanity of a plan to grow a new Temple in an area that is obviously becoming more non-Jewish. Thankfully for us, similar arguments had no sway with Moses; similar arguments had no sway with David Ben-Gurion and those ultimately responsible for creating the State of Israel over 60 years ago; and that argument had no sway with the members of Temple Sholom, who plan to stay; who plan to rebuild and who plan to continue right here where we have worshipped for almost 60 years.

Many of you have heard of our plans to spend a significant amount of time in trying to find alternative ways of funding our congregation, but we are going to need some help.

Each one of our congregations regardless of affiliation face the same opponent - the necessity of finding alternative ways of funding congregations outside of dues; fees; tuitions; pledges, fundraising activities and endowments because they obviously just do not work. If they did, the borough of Queens that has over 2.2 million people, which would rank as the 4th largest city in America edging out Houston, would not be down to 2 Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) congregations. Virtually every one of the almost 900 URJ congregations is reporting overwhelming budget deficits that threaten their long-term survival.

In the past 30 years there have been very few if any new Temples built in Queens, yet if we do not take this bold step to reinforce our Jewish Heritage in the neighborhoods where we live, work and worship who will? If this congregation does not exhibit the courage of Moses and Ben-Gurion, who will? If the daughters and sons of Israel do not help to build new houses of worship; and new community and educational centers, who will? No one will do it for us.

Unless we find a better way to fund our congregations; our Temples, Synagogues; Jewish Centers and Shuls will disappear at a much more alarming rate.....

Unless we find a better way to fund our congregations; our membership levels will drop even faster than they are now, not only here in Queens, but in all other neighborhoods across the country...

Unless we find a way to band together regardless of our worship traditions to find a way to solve this problem, eventually only a few Temples and Synagogues will be left; easily accessible only to the rich...

Unless we find organizations dedicated to driving this initiative along with us, we may not survive because the likelihood of a single person; or a single congregation alone finding the answer to funding; and insuring that our Congregational lives continue is not likely.

Especially during this Passover season, we have intensified our search for organizations who are interested in helping us in our journey to find alternative ways for funding not only our but all of our congregations. We need to find a solution or our weekly pilgrimages to our Temples will end eventually, because there will be no Temples where we can "afford" to go. Incredible as that seems.

Shalom,

Paul

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hello all,

As this column covers April and May it means our school year is winding down. We will mark *Pesach* together, take an end of year trip, and finish up our school year with a student led worship service on May 22. I look forward to all of you participating.

Please make sure you keep track of our remaining events on the school calendar I sent at the beginning of the year. I also send out e-mail reminders about programming, so please look for these too.

As you know I will be leaving the Temple at the end of June when my present contract come to an end. I have enjoyed our time together. You have enriched my rabbinate and I have learned from you, my wonderful

students. *B'chatz l'cha*, good luck, in all your future endeavors.

As always, questions, comments:
rskb@aol.com
212 877-3036

News from the Temple Office

Please update your contact information, including e-mail addresses.

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

SISTERHOOD COMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendars for our Next Sisterhood Breakfast - April 26th, 2009 at 10:00am. Our Own Stan & Ann Strauss will be presenting a wonderful program on Jewish Art and Jewish Artists. They have put a great deal of effort into

this project and we hope to see all of you \$60 (without a sheet cake). The cost there. Everyone is invited. Reservations a of sponsoring the flowers is \$35. **Must! Please call Sherry at the office 718-343-8660. Admission is \$5.**

We will also be holding our End of The Year Dinner on Wednesday May 27th at Uncle Bacalla's Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed it very much last year. Come and join us again. Further details to follow. Reservations are needed. Shirley Snyder will be happy to take your reservation. Please call her at: 718-343-6222

We are also looking forward to a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Glen Cove. As soon as we are able to finalize the arrangements we will send the information to you.

Sisterhood wishes everyone a *Zeesan Pesach*

Maxine and Gerty
Your Sisterhood Presidents

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

Sisterhood's Ongoing *Mitzvah* Projects are listed in subsequent pages.

ONEG:

Mae Rossin 718-359-0297
Dale Demner 718-343-8037

March 20th. The *Oneg Shabbat* the evening of the *Shabbat* Across America dinner was given by Hermine Elias in celebration of her 85th birthday and in honor of all March birthday celebrants.

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

Happy Apr/May Birthday to...

Harold Abramowitz	Maxine Baden
Jerome Furst	Rose Geringer
Danielle Jacobs	Lori Kisting
David Kramer	Vicki Nieter
Junko Savage	Jessica Sher
Andrew Spiegelman	Anne Sundack
Marc Turin	Nancy Abraham
Joel Friedland	Helen Kaplan
Mark Rand	Glen Rosenthal
Etta Roth	Marty Becker
Allen Zim	Adam Sabel
Gerson Sabel	Shirley Snyder
Ann Strauss	Daniel Turin

Happy Anniversary to...

**Harold & Debbie Abramowitz
Bernard & Lorraine Bragin
Mollie & William Rogers
Harvey & Joan Schuster
Stan & Ann Strauss
Rabbi & Marty Becker
Kevin Lynch & Bernice Siegel
Karla & Orlando Osuna**

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

YAHREZIT DONATIONS

In Memory of: Remembered by:

Samuel Ehrlich	Rose Geringer
Yetta Greis	Susanne and Gus Greis
Kate & Isadore Gluck	Ruth Flax
Irving Jacob Demner	Dale & Jerry Demner
Mabel and Max Smith	Jessica Sher
Ethel Brooks	Karla Osuna
Max Smith	Fran & Jessica Smith
Julius Hensen	Ray Hensen
Charles Greis	Susanne and Gus Greis
Mathilda Friedland	Joel Friedland
Beverly Hensen	Ray Hensen & family
Ida Sheingold	Cynthia & Allen Zim

Sidney Slive	Dale & Jerry Demner
Anna and David Slive	Dale & Jerry Demner
Anne Orenstein	Muriel Drew
Bella Sher	Jessica Sher
Max Zim	Cynthia & Allen Zim
Herman Poland	Janet Poland
Hyman Dworetzky	the Abraham family
Fanny & Milton Furst	Jerome Furst

Once again we are asking for current contact information *i. e.*, e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers. It is important we be able to reach you as quickly as possible in case of an emergency.

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

FROM THE OFFICE
IRENA'S VOW - Discount tickets available outside Temple Office.

GENERAL FUND - Donations

Lorraine & Barney Bragin Thinking of our Temple family from Florida

Four-time Tony nominee Tovah Feldshuh reprises the role she originated Off-Broadway to great acclaim, playing a real-life heroine who was instrumental in saving the lives of twelve Jewish refugees during WWII.

Betty Hankin In memory of Shelley Jan Metel, niece of Muriel Gorochow.

Muriel Gorochow Wishing a very happy birthday to Hermine Elias and Harold Abramowitz. Mazal Tov to Debbie and Harold Abramowitz as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Sisterhood of Temple Sholom invites you to a special Breakfast With the Arts featuring a program on Jewish Art and Jewish Artists.

LARRY WOLF FUND

Larry Wolf	Gerty Wolf & family
Samuel Weisser	Gerty Wolf & family
Rose Halper	Gerty Wolf & family

The program, presented by Stan and Ann Strauss, is on Sunday, April 26 at 10 am. Breakfast is

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\$5.00 Reservations are a must. Call the Temple, 718 - 343 - 8660 by April 21

Share your news with us - call the Temple office or e-mail us at

TempleSholom263@aol.com. We will be happy to place the information in our next newsletter.

We are updating the *Yahrzeit* book and ask you to please submit any names we may have omitted this year, or to include new names and dates for listing.

IN PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE

Temple *Sholom* Ladies

Memorial Plaques have been installed in the Sanctuary in loving memory of

Jan Bruce Dubow

Hannah Ruth Printz

Joseph Teich

Pauline Teich

Ida Wickstein

Louis Wickstein

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

If you have any kind of yarn that you do not need, please call Annette Gerard, 718-347-1965. She makes lap robes for the patients at Parker hospital and has run out of yarn. Thank you in advance.

The Deadline for the next Newsletter is May 21st. 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.



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