

Dec. 2006

Newsletter

Cheshvan/Kislev 5767

Temple Sholom of Floral Park

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

www.templesholom.info

Member of The Union for Reform Judaism

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

Ruth Gerver, President

Annette Gerard, Exec.Vice President

See the Chanukah Blessings at the end of this newsletter
or on the web site

Services and events

December 1 6:30 PM Shabbat Services, 7:30 PM Dinner

December 8 6:30 PM Shabbat Services, 7:30 PM Dinner

December 15 Shabbat Torah Service, 8:00 PM

December 16 Shabbat Service and Torah Study 10AM

December 22 6:30pm Chanukah Shabbat Dinner, 7:30pm Services with
Birthday Blessings, special welcome to new members

December 29 Shabbat (Healing) Service, 8 PM

(See the calendar for our complete schedule - Adult Yoga on Thursday evenings at 7:15pm,
Leisure Club)

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

On Friday eve, November 27, while services here were ably lay-led, Marty and I were in Stamford, CT at the Union of Reform Congregation's Regional Biennial Convention. Our Reform umbrella organization invites congregational clergy and lay people to come together and learn from each other every two years in these area groups, and on the alternate year there is a national gathering of all Reform congregations when thousands of Reform Jews gather.

The convention theme was Listen, O Israel, to each other. We arrived in time for Shabbat T'filah. This was a "swinging" service. The liturgy was from the new Reform prayer book, and the music was provided by Cantors and jazz musicians. As you can imagine there was a lot of commentary about the worship service at the Shabbat dinner that followed. After dinner we attended a program entitled, "The Epic Cycle and the return of the Juden to American Film", a lecture on Jews and the depiction of Jews in the movies. It was so enjoyable that I am hoping to bring the presenter here for this program.

On Saturday morning we had the opportunity to study the Torah portion of the week, Noach, from four different perspectives. One had to choose to go to only one of these presentations (and it was a hard choice) but we had the privilege of being with Rabbi Richard F. Address, Director, URJ Department of Family Concerns. He was my regional director when I worked in Pennsylvania, and our friendship goes back many years. It is always wonderful to study with colleagues, they teach me new ways of looking at text and

tradition which I can share with you. After study all attendees gathered for T'filah, our prayer service, where congregants from participating synagogues were the Torah readers.

Shabbat lunch was another opportunity for study and we attended "Different Modalities of Music in Worship". This was led by a colleague who is a Rabbi and Cantor, a Cantor, and a rabbinic student. As you might surmise, we learned some history of music as worship and the changing "ear" of music in worship. It was just the way to spend the early part of Shabbat afternoon! Later we attended yet another workshop (there are always lots of learning opportunities at biennials) with my colleague Rabbi Dr. Aaron D. Panken. He is the Dean and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at my seminary. We went to school together. His topic was: "Shabbat then and now: How a sacred Jewish Day Came to Be". He took us through text study tracing the development of changing practices with regard to our day of rest. Again, knowledge gained that I look forward to sharing with you.

Saturday night was the Havdalah service for the end of Shabbat and the installation of Regional officers. There were cocktails and dinner followed by a wonderful concert by a rabbinic student who is a song leader and is very talented. By the way there was also a plenary session where we gathered to do some work of the region, electing the officers as well as considering topics of interest to us as Reform Jews.

Sunday morning, bright and early (we had to set the clocks back that Saturday night) there was T'filah as usual - we Jews pray every day - and then onto another set of workshops. Marty continued with Panken, I attended "Will the Congregation Please Rise?" - the Process of Worship: Examination and Change. And then? Another workshop: "Making the Most of Your Physical Space", Utilization, Change, and Expense. The subtext was: living with a building that was designed and built in another era, what we can do to accommodate changing needs and populations. We could grab a snack in between workshops - all that mental work and sitting is tiring!

Finally, a closing ritual. Like the kids learn at the Reform camps, we formed a friendship circle, grasped hands, offered our thanks and comments and raised our voices in the song T'filat HaDerech by Debbie Friedman, singing the traveler's prayer to each other that we might be blessed as we leave.

As always, I return from these gatherings uplifted and excited to share what other colleagues and congregations are doing.

Marty and I wish you a Happy Chanukah and a wonderful, secular New Year.

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

If you need to reach Rabbi Becker in an emergency you can call her at: 212 865-5050. 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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving, the happy family event and the precursor of the year-end festivities, has come and gone. Temple Sholom initiated the season as host of the Interfaith Service on Monday, November 20th. The spirit of camaraderie, coupled with the beautiful musical renditions of the three choirs and the inspirational messages from the members of the Clergy, made the evening one to be remembered.

I am sure you are all curious about the contemplated sale of the school building. In one of my earlier messages, I stated that SNAP was the front runner amongst prospective purchasers. Regrettably, however, SNAP withdrew its offer to purchase on the grounds that the space was too small for their purposes. But, be not dismayed! There is now a fairly definite offer to purchase with negotiations close to being finalized. As soon as there is more positive information to impart, it will be done without delay.

The first two services for the month of December will be in the new format, that is, services at 6:30PM, followed by dinner and Oneg starting about 7:20 - 7:30PM. The glitch that occurred at the first of this new format has been remedied and all should go smoothly for subsequent services.

Plans for Chanukah are currently in work, so watch your mail/e-mail for further news.

Sholom,
Ruth Gerver

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

As we enter December, it is amazing to look back a few months and see the strides our students are making. Marty and I are enjoying having you in class and we hope you are having some fun learning Hebrew, and studying about holidays, Bible and our tradition.

Looking at the calendar after December Winter break (Dec. 27), we are back on Jan. 3rd and continue every Wednesday through February 14th. We will take off President's Week Feb. 21st, and resume our regular schedule Feb. 28th. Classes meet for all of March. We will be off for Pesach April 4th. Our year will come to a close on Wednesday May 16th.

I invite you to the following Saturday programs. Remember these are mandatory for students, and parents are expected too. Other family members are welcome.

Jan 13 - program and havdalah starting at 4pm - note this special time
Feb. 3rd service and Tu B'Shvat seder 10am
March 3rd service and program 10am
April 28 service and program 10am

Friday eve Jan. 19th the students will participate in the regular 8pm service.

Friday eve May 18th student participation and recognition of their achievement at 8pm.

Have a wonderful Chanukah and Happy secular New Year!

As usual, please don't hesitate to be in touch by calling me at the Temple Office, or at my home office: 212 865-5050 or through e-mail: rskb@aol.com

Rabbi Becker

SISTERHOOD

We are very elated to tell you that our Fashion Show on November 19 was a complete success. Those of you who attended know what a great day it was. Everything seemed to go our way. The food was good and plentiful. The fashions from Lord & Taylor and Anni of Jamaica Estates made a big hit. They were enhanced by our wonderful models: Barbara, Dacia, Joan, Ruth, Shirley & Vicki.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our Models, Lord & Taylor and Anni for stepping in to round out our show. Much thanks also to Joan Schuster who lent a helping hand wherever needed and for inviting Anni to take part in our show. Thank you to Rabbi Becker who took time out from a busy schedule that day to give a Motzi and set the theme of working together. Of course, the one deserving the most praise and thanks is Gerty Wolf who ran the Fashion Show from the planning stage to completion. Gerty took charge of the food for Brunch, organizing the models, setting up the room, getting reservations as well as numerous Raffle Prizes. She even made table signs on her computer. Gerty did a magnificent job and we were very successful financially. Our success will result in a good Chanukah Gift to Temple. We thank all of you for attending and being part of a "winner". We hope all our events will bring us the same "Nachas". Because we ordered extra food for our Brunch we had lots of leftovers. To start the Chanukah season with the spirit of giving, sisterhood donated all the extra food to Ronald McDonald House and thus completed another Mitzvah project. This is what its all about - being together, earning money for Temple and doing Mitzvahs. May our Sisterhood continue doing this for many years.

Dale, Gerty & Maxine, Sisterhood Co-Pres.

I must add a personal P.S. to our Sisterhood article. We are so happy with the wonderful results of our Fashion Show that we ran with the Sisterhood of Lake Success Jewish Center. I just have to say that if not for Maxine being available during her busy workday and being able to bounce questions off her every day - this

could not have been accomplished. At one point she said, "too bad we don't have a direct phone line to each other, it would be faster."

Also, a very big "Thank You" to Joan Schuster in her work on this function. The models all came thru with flying colors. They were all great. Thank you, to everyone who came to share in this event to make it the success it was.

Sincerely, Gerty

Sisterhood Gala Chanukah Celebration

Sisterhood is again hosting a Chanukah dinner and celebration at the Oneg after Chanukah services on Friday Evening, Dec 22nd - Dinner at 6:30, Oneg and entertainment after services.

The menu will consist of a complete Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, including Potato Latkes of course, served Family Style - everyone seated at tables. We will again enjoy the Klezmer music of Doug LeBlang at our festive Oneg which will consist of fruit and scrumptious desserts. There will be songs and games for children.

Very shortly you will receive an invitation to this gala event. The price is \$20.00 per adult and \$10.00 for children under 13. Please come and bring your family, friends and neighbors. Last year's celebration was great and we hope this year will be better. Please respond as soon as you receive your invitation. We look forward to the enjoyment of our Temple family celebrating Chanukah together.

Dale, Gerty & Maxine

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 \$50 (without a sheet cake). The cost of sponsoring the flowers is \$35.

**Special Blessing for New Members
December 22**

From the Financial Secretary

The second quarter dues statements have recently been mailed. We thank everyone who has paid on time, as the Temple needs to have its cash flow in as much of a positive state as possible. For those of you who are behind, we respectfully request that you provide the Temple with as much assistance as you can spare. The bills need to be paid, and your cash is the fuel and lifeblood that is required to keep us alive.

We appreciate the Kol Nidre pledges. Many of you have made good on your word. This is more than appreciated. However, some of you have pledged to help us, and have not yet kept your promise. The Kol Nidre pledge is intended to be honored by the end of the fall festivals. At this time Chanukah is approaching, we have not heard from you. Please do the right thing.

Finally, you are allowed to give more than your membership obligation. The Temple is a legitimate, tax deductible charity. If you have the urge to do something nice for the Temple, we are as good an organization as any. With your money we will be able to provide programs for all our members and the community at large. Please consider us when you are preparing your year-end charity tax deductible contributions.

Thank you.

(The following was submitted by Mel Gerard)

Mae Rossin contributed toward the cost of three (3) new hearing assist receivers that the Temple just bought. Thank you Mae!!

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a new 17 cu. ft. Freezer has been purchased for the Temple. Thank you to our anonymous donor.

On Friday evening December 22, beginning with a special dinner hosted by Sisterhood celebrating Chanukah starting at 6:30 in the Temple Sholom Social Hall, the new members of the congregation of Temple Sholom will be introduced. Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker has planned a special blessing during that evening's Shabbat service.

Prior to and during the New Year and Holiday Season, Temple Sholom attracted 7 new member units and hopes to add to that new member count during the upcoming Chanukah season. All members of the Temple Sholom congregational family are urged to attend the Shabbat Service beginning at 8:00 pm that evening to welcome our new members. Please contact the Temple office to make reservations if you wish to attend the festive Chanukah dinner and/or Oneg.

Please send me your e-mail addresses (if you haven't done so yet) for our mailing list. Thank you, Annette.

Please check your email daily for Temple chain messages. If you do not have email, you will be contacted by phone chain. This is the most efficient way to be in touch with all of our members

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO...

Jordan Ahiyon	Marissa Bearak
Matthew Blum	Bernard Bragin
John Healy	Mark Heumann
David Kisting	Stephen Levine
Daniel Savage	Robert Turin
Cynthia Zim	Julie Weinstock

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY TO

Dale & Jerome Demner
Allen & Cynthia Zim
Judi & Joseph Diorio

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

Yahrzeit Donations

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Remembered by:</u>
Suzanne Elias	Hermine Elias
Sophie Goldberg	Ida Goldfluss
Martha Steinberg	Karla & Orlando Osuna
Charles H. Gerard	Annette & Mel Gerard
Arlene Kaplan	Phil Kaplan
William Kaplan	Phil Kaplan
Sylvia & Daniel Lerner	
	Debbie & Harold Abramowitz

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

GENERAL FUND

- Donation from Harold Peterfreund in honor of Gloria Peterfreund, Regina Pecherz, Morris W. Cohen, Bertha Cohen and Edna Natkowitz
- Donation from Ruth W. Samuel "in appreciation for all the kindness shown to my brother Harold Wallerstein by Mrs. Hermine Elias"

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Donation from the Rossins "The Simchat Torah Service turned out great and Marty was a very important part of it. To us he is indispensable."
- Donation from Phil Kaplan "To Sam Rossin. It's great to see you back on the road to full recovery."

SISTERHOOD ONEG FUND

- The Oneg on Nov. 17th was sponsored by Douglas Rossin in honor of all veterans and a speedy recovery to Shana Rossin

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

Murray Leff, Published Author

Murray Leff, member of Temple Sholom for over 50 years is having his book published. Called "**Lens of an Infantryman**", it features photos he took of front line infantry action during WWII. As a soldier in General Patton's Third Army, he saw action as a rifleman in Northern France, the Battle of the bulge and the conquest of Germany. With a camera hidden under his field jacket he took over 100 pictures which have never been published before. Ask your local librarian to get the book. The publisher is: **McFarland & Company, Inc.** Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640

Gerty Wolf has received a letter from The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island (nearby on 76th Avenue) to thank us for the Temple community's donation of shampoos, soaps, and other items.

NORC-WOW News

Attn: Parents of Teens

Do you have a teenager 14 or older who would like to provide snow-shoveling services to the seniors in the community? The teen will be paid a stipend and hopefully learn to appreciate the importance of community volunteerism and helping those in need.

Call 718-347-2244 for details.

NORC is giving free Flu shots on Dec. 6th 9:30 - 12 noon at HSBC Bank. Call 1-718-347-2244 for appointment.

NORC Support Group meetings in the Social Hall
All meetings are 11 AM to 12:30 PM.

Arthritis exercise class at Temple Sholom Weds. 10-11am.

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 will be \$1000.

Flash! Let's expand our "TREE OF LIFE" in the lobby. Through the month of November plaques can be purchased at 50% off the original price
Size A - originally \$250 will now be \$125; Size B - originally \$500 is now \$250; Size C - originally \$750 is now \$500, Size D - originally \$1000 is now \$500. Here is a great opportunity to honor someone you care about in a special lasting way for everyone to see and admire.

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 now in place. PLEASE CHECK YOUR E-MAIL DAILY. All those who haven't given me their e-mail address will get a phone call. Annette: 718-347-1965

The Deadline for the January Newsletter is December 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 on, or add any name(s) to, the "get-well-list" recited on Friday evenings of the month. Names will not be carried over.

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 been putting used eyeglasses and miscellaneous jewelry into the container.

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.

Sunday December 17, 2006 - 26 Kislev
5767

NEQJCC/Y Chanukah Party, time to be announced/date to be confirmed at Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck, NY

Temple Sholom of Floral Park
263-10 Union Turnpike
Floral Park, NY 11004
(718) 343-8660

November 20, 2006

Sholom,

The Temple has a worthwhile program that needs your support.

On December 25, we will hold our annual Christmas Mitzvah program at The Parker Jewish Geriatric Center. For those of you who are not familiar with the program, the Temple sponsors this event at Parker, so that Christian workers may take time off to spend the day with their family. Parker is located in the Long Island Jewish Hospital Complex.

It is an opportunity in which adults of all ages, as well as our young people can participate and share in the joy of doing good for others, and we are not even asking for a financial donation. What we want is a donation of a small amount of your time.

We need people between 9:00 A.M. to approximately 3:00 P.M. on Christmas Day. If you can be there for just a portion of this time period, it will be appreciated. We will meet in the Board Room between 9:00 and 9:15 that morning for a required orientation. A kosher light breakfast will be served. Our duties will be to assist patients who wish to attend Mass, assist those who need help to attend the dinner, and to generally cheer up and talk to those who wish to share a conversation.

Your advance response to our plea for help will enable both the Temple and Parker to adequately plan for the day. Please call me at (718) 343-8037 to let me know if you and your family are coming to help.

This year, Dale and I need to be somewhere else, due to an important family life cycle event. If someone is available to handle some of the light administrative tasks to assure the program's success, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Jerry Demner



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