

Feb 2007

Newsletter

Shevat/Adar 5767

Temple Sholom of Floral Park

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

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker
Ruth Gerver, President

Annette Gerard, Exec.Vice President

Services and events

February 2 Shabbat Service 8PM
February 9 Shabbat Service, 6:30PM Dinner 7:30 PM
February 16 Shabbat Torah Service, 8:00 PM
February 17 Service and Torah Study 10 AM
February 23 Shabbat Services 8 PM – birthday blessings

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

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Some of you send me e-mail directing me to interesting articles. Recently I received this one. I reprint part of it here.

"Subject: From a Rabbi in Iraq.

Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Huerta from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division writes: Climbing over the rotting garbage, I realized I was the first Jew to enter this holy place in over 50 years. I am writing to you from Nineveh, the city of the prophet Jonah. Its present name is Mosul. I have had the privilege of seeing its ancient walls, of touching its stones, of going to the grave Islamic tradition says is the prophet Jonah's.

There is a mosque at the site; but hundreds of years ago, the Iraqis we work with tell me, it was a synagogue. They tell me the reason the site is so sacred is because of the sacredness in which the Jews held it. Presently there are no signs of this ancient synagogue. I am the rabbi of the 101st Airborne Division, the division Steven Spielberg immortalized in his epic Band of Brothers. We, the soldiers of the 101st Airborne, fought our way up from the south, from Kuwait. The battle took us past Ur, the city where Abraham was born. We maintained contact with the enemy, passed the site of the great talmudic academies of Sura and Pumbedita, to the city of Babylon, where the prophet Daniel was taken. There we engaged the Nebuchadnezzar Iraqi Armored Division and beat them. We continued the battle to Baghdad, where so many Jews lived [and were] massacred in the summer of 1948. It was the city of so many of our sages...

Now we are in Mosul. I ask about the Jews who lived here, and very few remember them. Many say Jews never lived here; but my heart tells me different. The old ones tell me there was a Jewish quarter, a synagogue, study halls, and a cemetery. One day, while searching the streets of the ancient city, I came across a building missing half of its roof.

The site was a garbage dump and the building's interior was three-quarters full of rotting garbage, feces and sewage. I had to crouch down low to get inside as the doorway was almost completely buried. As I entered light came through the half-open roof and I could just make out writing engraved on the walls. It was Hebrew. It was then that I knew I had stumbled into the ancient synagogue of the city of Mosul-Nineveh. My heart broke as I climbed over the garbage piles that filled the room where, for hundreds of years, the prayers of Jews had reached the heavens. I realized I was probably the first Jew to enter this holy place in over 50 years. Over three-and-a half meters of garbage filled the main sanctuary and what appeared to be the women's section. I could barely make it out because of the filth, but there was Hebrew writing on the walls. Many Iraqis congregated around me, wanting to know what I was doing. My translator said that the American army was interested in old archeological sites of all kinds. I asked them if they knew what this place was, and they all said in an instant: It was the house where the Jews prayed. They told me that the houses in the streets surrounding the synagogue had been filled with Jews. They took me to the children's yeshiva, a marbled edifice that no longer had a roof, only walls and half-rooms. There was a vagrant family living there and when I asked them what this place was, they said it was a Jewish school for children. As I walked through the quarter I was shown the grave of the prophet Daniel, once a synagogue. I saw that many of the doorposts had an engraving of the lion of Judah on the top. I felt the presence of our people, of their daily lives as merchants, teachers, rabbis, doctors, and tailors... I felt their rush to get ready for Shabbat, felt their presence as they walked to the synagogue on Yom Kippur. I could almost hear singing in the court-yards, in the succot... I could hear the Pessah songs echoing through the narrow streets...

Since then I have gone back to the Jewish quarter of old Mosul with members of my congregation, Jewish soldiers of the 101st: Infantrymen, artillerymen, medics, pilots, lawyers, doctors, all proud to be Jewish and serving their country. Together we have found five more synagogues, more yeshivot and many Jewish homes. They have all come away profoundly affected by what they saw. They are saddened, but yet proud to be connected to such an ancient and rich tradition in this historic city of Nineveh....

I searched the ancient city near cemeteries in hope of finding the Jewish cemetery...I have not yet discovered the ancient Jewish cemetery of the Jews of Mosul-Nineveh...

There IS a great history to be written here, a great opportunity to recover the lost narrative of our people, the Sephardim of Iraq. My prayer and hope is that when the gates finally open for scholars the remnants of our people will still be here for historians to recover. If this chapter of history is erased, it will never be recovered again. I pray that those with more resources, more connections, and more wisdom than I will be able to add to these pages of our great history. I am only thankful that God has given me a small part in it. May the memories of our brothers and sisters -hakahal hakadosh d'Nineveh - the holy community of Nineveh - never be forgotten."

I add: Keyn y'hi ratzon - may this be God's will - to end the hostilities and preserve sacred communities everywhere.

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

Please note these service time changes: the Ritual Committee has decided to hold the kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:30PM followed by dinner only once a month. This begins in March. The first Friday night service in February is at 8PM. The second Friday night of February, Feb. 9th, will be a 6:30PM service followed by dinner at 7:30pm.

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.

negativism that has been expressed from time to time, what we witnessed that Friday night was evidence of positive thinking. How can we fail?

Shalom!
Ruth Gerver

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the Friday night of our monthly Torah service, we experienced a great deal of pride as our Religious School students led the service along with the Rabbi. It was heartwarming to listen to the youngsters reading in a tongue so completely foreign to them originally. It is, indeed, a tribute to the Rabbi and Marty Becker to have brought the students to this level.

Encouragement by the parents is not to be ignored in the progress that the students have made. It was obvious in their enthusiastic participation in the "dramatic" presentation of the evening's parshah on the Bima.

Though it may be small, our school is something of which we can all be proud, as we have in the past. Despite some

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Our Friday night, January 19th, our Shabbat service was especially wonderful because of the participation of our students. Marty and I were delighted with our students' command of Hebrew, with their poise, leadership, and behavior. Our congregational family had many compliments for them. If you were among those who did not attend, you missed an evening to kvell at their accomplishment.

Our school year continues with classes on Wednesday afternoons and the coming Saturday morning, February 3rd, T'u B'Shvat program. We 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.

Feb. 3rd service and Tu B'Shvat seder 10am.
March 3rd - this is an afternoon program with havdalah, dinner, and our celebration of Purim - details to come

April 28 service and program 10am

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

Rabbi Becker
rskb@aol.com

SISTERHOOD

We are planning a Sunday morning Breakfast for March 18th. The breakfast is open to everyone in our congregation and their friends. The speaker will be Dr. Sally Drucker, of Nassau Community College. Her program is entitled:

" Will the Real Jewish Mother, Please Stand Up".
More details will be in Next month's newsletter. Please Save the Date...March 18th, at 10 am.

The Sisterhood is planning run a Vendors' Fair in the spring. Please watch your mail for details. If you know of any possible vendors, please let us know. We will need your help, please plan to be there.

Dale, Gerty & Maxine, Sisterhood Co-Pres.

ONEG:

Mae Rossin 718-359-0297

Dale Demner 718-343-8037

The Oneg on December 22nd was sponsored by the Rossin family in celebration of Chanukah.

The Oneg on January 12th was sponsored by Dacia Horowitz in honor of her new grandson Tobias Aaron Horowitz and his older brother Caleb.

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.

NEQJCC

Families Helping Families Winter Coat Drive through February 4

Donations of new or slightly used Winter Coats may be dropped of at

*The Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway

*Parker Jewish Institute, 271-11 76th Ave., New Hyde Park (LIJ campus)

*HSBC, 257-15 Union Turnpike, Glen Oaks (Shopping Center)

NEQJCC LEGISLATIVE FORUM 2007 at The Samuel Field Y, SUNDAY, APRIL 22 at 9:30 AM

Please send me your email 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 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO...

Debbie Abramowitz	Dennis Baltuch
Bobbie Dutchen	Debbie Dutchen
Janet Friedland	Mel Gerard
Stu Jacobs	William Rogers
Pam Sabel	Benjamin Savage
Gary Savage	Fran Smith
Michael Spritzer	Susan Turin
Judith Weinstock	

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

Yahrzeit Donations

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Remembered by:</u>
Eva Schoen	Hermine Elias
Sidney Herbert Jacobson	Mae Rossin
Florence Bernstein	The Baden Family
Adele Leff	Murray Leff
Irwin Goldstein	Dacia Horowitz
Martha Sundack	Anne & Hank Sundack
Lee Douglas	Anne & Hank Sundack

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

GENERAL FUND

- Donation from the Goldberg family in memory of Jerome Goldberg.
- Donation from Muriel Gorochow in honor of Mae Rossin's birthday:
"Congratulations on your birthday. May you continue to have many years of health and happiness."

SISTERHOOD ONEG FUND

- Donation from Debbie & Harold Abramowitz in honor of Mae Rossin's birthday.
- Donation from Dacia Horowitz and Jerry Furst "in celebration of Mae Rossin's 79th Milestone Birthday. She is a person whose warm smile and heartfelt greetings are always uplifting."

- Donation from Sam, Mae, and Douglas Rossin in honor of the birth of Dacia Horowitz's new grandchild "You will be the greatest grandmother that any baby can have."
- Donation from Sam, Mae, and Douglas Rossin for Ann Strauss "The Rossins pray that you get well soon; we miss you at services and wish you a speedy recovery."

LARRY WOLF FUND

- Donation from Gerty Wolf and family in memory of Frances P. Horn, Jeanie Levin, and Milton Wolf.
- Donation from Gerty Wolf and family in memory of Etta Stein
- Donation from Harvey and Joan Schuster "to wish a happy birthday to Mae Rossin, a very special lady."
- Donation from Harvey and Joan Schuster "congratulations to Dacia Horowitz on her new grandson."

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

Temple Member 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

IS YOUR CHILD IN TEMPLE SHOLOM'S RELIGIOUS SCHOOL? ARE YOU CONSIDERING SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SLEEP-AWAY SUMMER CAMP?

If your child is in Temple Sholom's Religious School, and you expect to send him or her away to summer sleep-away camp, hopefully oriented to Reform Judaism, then the TEMPLE SHOLOM GERARD CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND may be able to help, financially.

There are criteria to be followed for any prospective applicant, so if you are interested, please contact Mel Gerard, through the Temple office, for details and an application. Completed applications should be turned in by May 15, 2007.

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 their 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 Support Group meetings in the Social Hall, also arthritis exercise classes - **see the calendar for the complete schedule.**

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.

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 March Newsletter is February 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. Call at any time to add names.

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.

Remember - Rechargeable Batteries should not go into the trash - they should go to battery recycling. You can bring them to the battery recycling box in the Temple office. Regular batteries are no longer made with dangerous chemicals and can go into the regular trash.

Clothes Needed for needy families - distributed to the community by the Jewish Community Council of Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Clothes must be clean and put in plastic bags or, if they are on hangers, they can be distributed that way. 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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