

Jan 2007

Newsletter

Tevet/Shvat 5767

Temple Sholom of Floral Park

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

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker
Ruth Gerver, President

Annette Gerard, Exec.Vice President

Services and events

January 5 6:30 PM Shabbat Services, 7:30 PM Dinner
January 12 6:30 PM Shabbat Services, 7:30 PM Dinner
January 19 Shabbat Torah Service, 8:00 PM – students participate
January 20 Service and Torah Study 10 AM
January 26 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

To Do What is Just and Right (Gen. 18:19) is the Biblical verse that Rabbis for Human Rights chose to guide them in their first North American Rabbinic Conference on Judaism and Human Rights. Marty and I attended the keynote addresses on Sunday evening, Dec. 10th, given by Dr. Moshe Halbertal, Professor of Jewish Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Ken Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch. This was followed by a discussion moderated by Ruth Messinger, former Manhattan Borough President, now, Director of the American Jewish World Service. We also heard from various speakers including John Ruskay of UJA; and Imam Yahya Hendi founder of Imam's for Human Rights and Dialogue. One of the conference organizers is my colleague and friend Rabbi Ellen Lippmann. I share what I heard in these significant presentations.

Ken Roth grew up hearing stories about Nazi Germany from his Dad. He told us that human rights, ethical and moral principles and public morality are first and foremost a commanding preventative **before** reaching the point of armed conflict. If more universally accepted, such strong ideology and basic respect for human life would preclude much of humanity's justification for war. In his specific remarks about Israel he said the historic Jewish homeland is facing an existential threat - Iran. Leaders in Iran have stated that they would be willing to forfeit any number of Arab lives to their convictions because there are so many more of them than Israelis. Roth's analysis indicated Iran would also tolerate facing international opprobrium to reach its goal of a world without a Jewish state. He reiterated: one solution is to change public morality so that a statement of this kind becomes unacceptable to the majority.

Imam Hendi told us he would be willing to compromise on El Aksa, the central mosque in Jerusalem, and the City of Mecca for the sake of the human soul. In speaking of the city that is holy to so many religious people he asked, what is Jerusalem for a Muslim without a

Jew? What is Jerusalem for the Jew without the Muslim? What is Jerusalem without Christians? For any one of these people, a place totally for them. But for any one of these people who cherish respect for human dignity, it would not be the City of religious import without the other believers.

Ruth Messenger gave us this clarification of the U.N. statement on Human Rights: human rights are not political rights. Human rights include the basic, fundamental **right to life**.

The other keynote speaker, Dr. Moshe Halbertal, explained that some people believe human rights are a secular, Western value and this is why they are so often trampled in other parts of the world. He spoke to us of the cult of the sacred, of what is indivisible. We are seeing he says, much of the world moving from political conflict to religious war. He explained that the function of religion is to determine what is sacred, but when you are unable or unwilling to sacrifice your own conscience you often end up, literally, sacrificing other's lives. Halbertal urged us to understand, and bring the message to others, that a claim of the sacred means to renounce sovereignty. To make sacred is non-instrumentalizing, we have no right to make human beings into a commodity. Most of us speak of relative absolutes, the exhausting, perpetual debate on unresolvable topics between opposing viewpoints, that one truth can be deemed more valid, more accurate. Halbertal speaks of absolutizing the relative to allow all of us to co-exist.

As I often ask you, do something - speak out on human rights to our elected officials, in surveys, in any forum you can. We are grateful for the lives we are able to lead and should do what we can to see that others share the same blessing.

I look forward to being with you in this new secular year. May it be one of good health, prosperity and peace for each of you as well as for our dear "jewel of a shul".

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

Thanks to all of you who have given unselfishly of your time and effort for the benefit of Temple Sholom.

With every good wish to our Temple members and their families for a happy and healthy New Year, I say

Shalom!
Ruth Gerver

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Hello all,

I am looking forward to our Saturday Religious School program on Jan. 13th which will include havdalah, the beautiful ceremony which ends Shabbat. We will meet at 4pm for our program and conclude with this short service.

And remember to mark your calendars for the Jan 19th Friday eve Shabbat service at 8pm in which our students will participate. They will be ready to show you their increasing ability to lead us in prayer.

Marty and I will also be sharing with parents a mid-year evaluation of your student's progress shortly.

As always, be in touch if you would like to speak to me about any aspect of Religious school.

Rabbi Becker
rskb@aol.com

SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood Gala Chanukah Celebration was a great success. The evening began with communal menorah lighting. The variety of menorahs was amazing.

We all participated in the Shabbat table blessings. The turkey dinner with all the trimmings was delicious and plentiful. The latkes were hot and abundant.

We welcomed our new Temple members with a Shabbat Shopping bag. The new members were invited to attend the party as guests of Sisterhood. The food that was not eaten was taken to Ronald McDonald House, for the families staying there to enjoy.

Our Chanukah Shabbat service was very moving. After the service we continued our celebration with music and song. Doug LeBlang, a Klezmer musician, provided entertainment for young and older alike. The music was sponsored by The Brotherhood, and The Rosin Family. Thank you both.

Each year, at Chanukah time, Sisterhood sponsors a special Tzedakah project. This year the Tzedakah boxes that adorned the holiday tables were there to collect donations for the Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association. We will be sending a check for \$150 to the association. This includes the donations collected and a generous contribution from Sisterhood.

Of course, we had a special Oneg, featuring fruit, cookies and munchkins. The Oneg was sponsored in honor of Mae Rossin's January birthday, by the Rossin Family.

The Sisterhood wants to especially thank Neville and Jim for their help. Without them this event would have been nearly impossible. Thank you also to everyone who helped make this a GREAT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION!

On behalf of Gerty, Maxine and myself we wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

Dale, Gerty & Maxine, Sisterhood Co-Pres.

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.

We received letters of thanks from Ronald McDonald house for recent donations given by our members. From those letters:

"Thank you so much for the generous donation of assorted toiletries for the families at the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island. The residents truly appreciate your kindness. In-kind gifts from the community touch our residents deeply. Knowing the community cares means the world to them."

"Thank you so much for the generous donation of assorted 3 five-pound salads for the families at the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island. The residents truly appreciate your kindness. In-kind gifts from the community touch our residents deeply. Knowing the community cares means the world to them."

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

Religious School is in session. Contact Rabbi Becker for details.

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 JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO...

Fred Fleisher	Larry Fleisher
Joseph Butera	Lori Butera
Steve Dutchen	Florence Ginsberg
Ellen Healy	Adam Kisting
Lois Leff	Sara Lynch
Jerry Pasternak	David Rand
Henry Sundack	Muriel Gorochow
Mae Rossin	Bruce Abrams
Adam Strominger	

Sorry we missed your December birthday, Trudy Strominger!

HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARY TO

Jack & Lois Leff

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

YAHREIT DONATIONS

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Remembered by:</u>
Lillian Schoen	Hermine Elias
Hyman Brustein	Ann Strauss
Yetta Greis	Gustave Greis
Parents of Anne Sundack	Anne & Hank Sundack
Abraham & Rose Schrier	Anne & Hank Sundack
Lorraine Hirsch	Dale & Jerry Demner
Jesse Demner	Dale & Jerry Demner
Harry Brooks	Karla & Orlando Osuna
Estelle Dawley	Hensen Family
Janet M. Holzer	Susanne Greis
David Sher	Jessicca Sher
Elias Goldfluss	Ida Goldfluss
Sidney Herbert Jacobson	Mae Rossin
Dena Gorochow	Muriel Gorochow

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

GENERAL FUND

- Donation from Mae & Sam Rossin- "to Mel Gerard - Mel, you are a devoted and unusual person. Your concern for the

Temple is outstanding. Even with your own health problems you have always made sure that the Temple's needs are met. We can never thank you enough."

- Donation from Maxine Baden for Florence Ginsberg's good health.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Donation from Florence Isaacs in memory of Harvey Isaacs.

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 them 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.

The Leisure Club

January 3 - Atlantic City

January 9 - meeting

January 16 - meeting

January 23 - meeting

January 29 - Atlantic City

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 yearzeit plaque on our memorial board in the sanctuary. In this beautiful way your loved ones will be remembered by you, and the yearzeit 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. For a limited time, 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 February Newsletter is January 22nd. 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.

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.

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.

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