

Mar 2008 **Newsletter** *Adar1/Adar2 5768*

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*

Services and Events

Saturday, Mar. 1 Religious School Program 10am

Friday, Mar. 7 *Shabbat Across America* service 6:30PM, Dinner 7:30pm

Sunday, Mar. 9 Adult Ed. Program 10am

Friday, Mar. 14 *Shabbat* service 8pm

Thursday, Mar. 20 Purim Program

Friday, Mar. 21 *Shabbat Torah* service 8pm

Saturday, Mar. 22 *Shabbat* service followed by *Torah* study 10am

Friday, Mar. 28 *Shabbat* service 8pm

Mark your calendars - Sisterhood Meeting March 12th at 8PM

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

I do not save Broadway show Playbills for posterity but I have a hand full on my desk just now from the performances I have attended since last fall. I saved them knowing I would write you about what I saw.

Marty and I have gone to the NYC Ballet and to the NY Philharmonic as well. On my own I have seen *Journey's End* and *The Farnsworth Invention*. We also attended *Kleynkunst*, Warsaw's brave and brilliant Yiddish Cabaret, a production of the National Yiddish Theatre *Folksbien*. Though a varied lot, what they have in common is the ability to entertain and spark discussion and reflection.

I was eager to see *Kleynkunst* for its historical value. It was a recreation of Jewish cabaret in the years before the Second World War in Warsaw. It was racy, it was provocative, it was sad as, toward the end, we knew as did the characters, what was about to overtake Europe.

I saw *Journey's End* on the last day of its run. It was written in 1928 recalling WWI. Set in the British trenches of San Quentin, France, without saying explicitly, it captured the futility of war. The audience sat in silence at the conclusion when the curtain came down because of the content as well as the power of the performance.

In *The Farnsworth Invention*, Philo T. Farnsworth, the probable inventor of television, does corporate battle with David Sarnoff but cannot prove sufficiently that he is the creator of this amazing technology. It is fast, clever and somewhat depressing as the "little guy loses to the big corporation" and, consequently, most of us do not know the name Farnsworth.

At the NYC Ballet we saw dance set to the music of Richard Rogers - a grand show piece - and *West Side Story Suite*, music by Leonard Bernstein with choreography by Jerome Robbins.

Some of the composers, choreographers, and story lines above were written or dramatized by Jews. Certainly some of the performers are Jews. In fact, in reading the ballet notes I learned that when Robbins began thinking of *West Side Story*, his re-setting of *Romeo and Juliet*, he envisioned Juliet as Jewish. But by the time the ballet was framed, the mid-1950s, New York demographics had changed and Robbins did it as White verses Puerto Rican.

By the way, at the very end of December, I attended the New York City Mayor's annual Interfaith Prayer breakfast with the Mayor and several hundred clergy from across the City. There were speeches, prayers and choirs from several faith traditions. I think this fits right into the performance schedule I speak of above. We are proud of those Jews who have achieved such prominence and who give lasting work to society. We are proud that so much of this is universal in its appeal and speaks to the human experience. Let us continue to cultivate interfaith understanding. To that end we will have a member of the Sikh tradition speak to us on Sunday April 6th. I am excited about this upcoming program. Please reserve the date on your calendar now and look for the flyer soon.

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 Dawn in the office.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As you all probably know by now, the special Shabbat service that we had planned for February 22, while the Rabbi was traveling to Florida, was cancelled due to inclement weather. We plan to use this special service either during the Rabbi's summer vacation or before if the opportunity presents itself. This will insure that all of those who contributed their time, effort and talent into the creation of this service will see the result of their efforts on behalf of all of us.

The two things that will very likely not be timely when we are finally able to present this service are the Parashat summary for the Shabbat Service of February 22 and the Dvrei Torah. Stan Strauss was going to present the summary and I was going to present the Dvrei Torah immediately following Stan's always eloquent presentation. Realize that Stan usually delivers these summaries extemporaneously because of his knowledge of the subject matter and doesn't exactly write too much down. Therefore, the following has been reproduced from URJ's daily message, *Ten Minutes of Torah*; and the Dvrei Torah, which was written in the form of a letter to God, was authored by me. I am sure that the URJ is thrilled that none of their resources were used in the creation of this letter.

Summary of Parashat Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11-34:35 by Carol Ochs

The story of the Golden Calf has so seared itself into our consciousness that it has become one of the prime acts of apostasy in the Jewish story. The Israelites, so recently liberated from slavery, are fearful when Moses, their leader, climbs up Mount Sinai but does not return before their patience runs out. Fearing the worst, they contribute the gold they had with them and ask Aaron to make them a calf, an image they can worship to reassure them in their terror. We recognize their motivation from our own desire to carry a "lucky piece" into

a frightening situation, whether it is a job interview or an exam. We think fleetingly how having a mezuzah on the door or kissing the Torah resembles or differs from what the Israelites were seeking. When do our own sacred objects serve merely as ways to remember God, and when are they actually idols? The injunction against idolatry is probably the most frequently violated rule in our religion. That is not because we make statues or light candles in front of images, but because we treat something that is less than ultimate as if it were an ultimate concern. We can make an idol out of our own status or wealth. We can see this more clearly when we realize that even Moses sought to have an image of God:

[Moses] said: "Oh, let me behold Your Presence!" And [God] answered, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim before you the name Eternal, and the grace that I grant and the compassion that I show," continuing, "but, you cannot see My face, for a human being may not see Me and live."(Exodus 33:18-21)

The God we worship is not one we can look at; rather, God shapes the way we look at everything we see. Since God is God—our ultimate concern—God cannot be an object to our subjectivity. Rather, our subjectivity, as well as our consciousness and will, are transformed by our awareness of God.

Dvrei Torah

Dear God,

I guess you might be wondering what all of this is about. We are coming together with songs and prayers that you have not heard from us before at previous Shabbat services. You might be wondering about why we put so much effort into special readings; or why we invited two cantors to sing the special songs of heaven and earth; and you might be wondering why more of us than usual are filling in for the Rabbi to lead us in prayer.

What this is all about is simple: we needed some quality face time with you. "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.

And while we are just talking, that brings up an interesting question that a lot of us have: Why are we still having some trouble with the God/gender thing? If you have a free moment could you clarify this for us? We realize by now that you are neither man nor

woman but the logic has become to a degree imponderable, so if you wouldn't mind helping out our understanding of this seemingly simple yet complex concept, we would appreciate it.

You can now see for yourself based on the past couple of minutes how our ancestors could have so completely messed up with the Golden Calf thing. They had no clear image of you; they felt abandoned and alone at the time; and they needed some image to represent you while you and Moses were carving out the Ten Commandment agreement. The way we heard it, this entire incident happened, because some knucklehead yelled out, "How about making God look like a Golden Calf"? With everyone else too busy putting out burning bush fires, only Aaron, the artist in residence, was one of the few people who even heard the suggestion. So Aaron, never one to turn down a commission, went to work. No one else gave the suggestion a good review and before they knew it, a Golden Calf appeared.

One little mistake by our people, who were distracted by harmless brush fires, and we are saddled with generation after generation of reminders of how we messed up in turning your image into a calf. Truth be told, and with all due respect, I really don't think you helped our people out with not even a hint of a divine image. What did you want our people to do, make you to look like a Moses? The rumor is that Moses didn't start off as a good looking man and after decades of wandering around in all of that sand, he got pretty beat up, impatient and cranky to a point where you told him he could only have a glimpse but could have no entry into the Promised Land.

If we agree to change the name of the Parashat from *Ki Tisa* to *The Day We Really Messed Up*, would you agree to stop reminding us year after year of such an obvious screw up, which you, in your infinite wisdom, can plainly see has some mitigating circumstances?

And God, I really don't want to bring this up; and I do not mean to show you any disrespect, but if there is a possibility that you look like us; and you are possibly the manifestation of all of us, don't you think that it is possible that you have messed up a few times yourself? We realize that you get a free pass with your mistakes; because you are who you are and we are who we are; but to be fair, haven't you made a few whoppers in say the last seven or eight years?

It started with Florida in 2000 featuring the two words that decided the future course of our country - hanging chads - and it continued in New York in 2001; and even you have got to admit the with one exception, the Middle East does not represent your best work even though Israel does. And haven't the past 6 years featured one fiasco after another; one bad news story after another; one desert disaster after another? Remember what stress in the desert did to Moses? Trust me; it hasn't gotten any better for any of us. We need serenity there now. While we are at it, I have always had this question: when bad things happen, is it that you are teaching us a lesson or is there really a lesson that you are teaching us? Sorry to push you, but how many chances do we get to talk, really talk....

One conundrum after another, just like wondering what you look like... ok, we won't re-visit that again, but what we should revisit, Adonai, is why we wanted the face time... Remember when you sent Moses to the Pharaoh in Egypt to ask him to "Let me people go..."? This time, we would like you to send someone to deliver a variation of that message, "Let our people sell".

We have come together as a congregation; we have essentially moved heaven and earth (no, we don't want your job) to build consensus among us to sell this holy place; this Temple where we developed as a congregation only because conditions have dictated that it is time for your people here to go.

We need to free ourselves from the impossible economic shackles of a Temple where we grew up together; to another holy place that will allow us to not only continue but to potentially thrive as a congregation. Sure, it isn't anything like our Egypt experience, God, but in one way it is - as our very survival depends on finding a new land of promise, as we have already seen the Promised Land.

And if you will allow me to say this, Adonai, if by chance, you are the manifestation of all of us; and you indeed look like all of us; then the next time we will have this type of extended conversation is when you show up saying, "I not only found you a new home, but I found someone to buy your building". When that happens we will take your picture and caption it, "This could be the face of God".

Sincerely,
David ben Mordechai vih Ruth (Paul Trolio)
Shabbat Shalom

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hello all,

In February we welcomed a new student, Jonathan Arcese, and his mom, Susan to our Religious school family. Jonathan is in 5th grade in secular school and is already participating in his first time Hebrew and Judaic studies with enthusiasm.

Once again here is the school calendar. I will be planning a year-end trip for us, date to be announced.

Here are the remaining Saturday morning programs at 10am:

Mar. 1

April 5

May 3

Here is the continuing calendar for Tuesdays:

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 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: 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*******

We are having a Sisterhood Meeting on March 12th at 8pm. Hope to see you there. We will have a short meeting discussing upcoming events & finances. We encourage your input and suggestions.

We will then have a Video program about women and how some of us enjoy ourselves with other women at games.

Of course refreshments will be served. Please mark your calendars and join us.

Saturday, March 15th at 10am will be a very exciting day. Sisterhood has been invited to take part in a SHABBATON arranged by WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) at Temple Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan. The topic for the day is "Reform is a Verb" exploring the

changes and some of the tradition in Reform Judaism.

Please make your check out to WRJ for \$18 for the Shabbaton. Transportation cost is \$20 round Trip. Please make check out to Sisterhood of Temple Sholom.

Please call Gerty Wolf - 718-347-8171 if interested. We must send these in before March 3rd.

We are so pleased to announce that the cardboard Israeli Ambulance Mitzvah project participated in by so many of our members, and Sisterhood, raised \$180. We want to thank Dale for discovering this Mitzvah Project. This gave the membership the opportunity to support this worthwhile project.

Our trip to the Holocaust Resource Center in Glen Cove is still in the works. Because of Temple Sholom calendar commitments, we have not finalized a date. As soon as we do, you will be informed.

We are looking forward to Sisterhood's Annual year End Dinner. Date and information to follow shortly.

Sisterhood wants to say THANK YOU to Junko Savage for the beautiful Challah Covers she made for Temple.

Maxine, Gerty, and Dale Sisterhood Co-Pres.

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**

Adult Education Program

Rabbi Becker's Adult Ed Breakfast Classes have been a huge success. Attendance has been 25 plus people. At the last session on Feb 10th, we were pleased to welcome 5 people from North Shore towers who came in response to a lecture given there by Rabbi Becker in January. We hope they come again and bring other friends and neighbors.

The topic "Israel at 60 - A sacred Identity of American Jews" gave all of us present much food for thought. There was lots of participation and questions. But all good things come to an end and the 3rd and last session will be Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 10am. Breakfast will be served and the class will be enjoyed as much as the others. A reservation is a must. Please call Dawn in the Temple office or Maxine Baden at 718-631-4696 so we can prepare properly.

Please note that Sunday, March 9th is the Sunday we go on Daylight Savings Time so please change your clocks beforehand and set them for the proper time. We don't want to lose anyone because of 1 hour time difference.

Please join us for a delightful learning experience.

ONEG:

Mae Rossin 718-359-0297

Dale Demner 718-343-8037

The Oneg on February 8 was sponsored by Debbie and Harold Abramowitz in honor of their grandson Joshua's Bar Mitzvah and all February Birthdays.

SISTERHOOD ONEG FUND

- Donation from Mae, Sam and Douglas Rossin to wish Happy Anniversary to Debbie and Harold Abramowitz

- Donation from Mae, Sam and Douglas Rossin to thank Nancy and Rebecca Abraham and Paul and Roni Trolio for help with the Friday cleanup after Oneg.

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.

Please note: The cost of sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat will increase effective, April 1st. The new donation will be \$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 March Birthday to...

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Lawrence Abraham | Dale Demner |
| Hermine Elias | Ruth Flax |
| Ida Goldfluss | David Healy |
| Stuart Weinstock | David Levine |
| Jeanne Levine | Robert Printz |
| Caroline Roe | Mollie Rogers |
| Eric Rosenthal | Sam Rossin |
| Jack Spiegelman | Selma Leff |

Happy March Anniversary to...

Corey & Rachelle Bearak
Barbara & Fred Fleisher

Ellen & John Healy
Jack & Robin Spiegelman
Debbie & Harold Abramowitz

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

Yahrzeit Donations

In Memory of: **Remembered by:**
Robert Unger Robin Spiegelman
Harold Gorochow Muriel Gorochow
Sabina Grossman Muriel Gorochow
Bertha Greenfield
 Dale & Jerry Demner
Phyllis Goldstein
 Dale & Jerry Demner
Ralph Abraham The Abraham Family
Elsa & Ernst Strauss Stan Strauss

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

GENERAL FUND

- Donation from Shirley Snyder in memory of Jan Dubow
- Donation from Shirley Snyder in memory of Ruth Berman's brother
- Donation from Shirley Snyder for the Bar Mitzvah of Debbie and Harold Abramowitz's grandson
- Donation from Hermine Elias in honor of the birthdays of Eric Rosenthal and Sam Rossin

In Celebration of Us
Ruth Gerver Dennis Baltuch

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

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.

.....
Sunday, March 9, 2008 - 2 Adar II 5768
Samuel Field Y/ NEQJCC Purim Party and Harmony initiative Food Drive Kickoff

12:30 pm (Kickoff) at Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway in Little Neck
1:00 - 4:00 pm Purim Carnival

For information, call (718) 225-6750x247

.....
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 April Newsletter is MARCH 17th. 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.

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.

(This item is from the NEQJCC newsletter, submitted there by Rabbi Green at Marathon Jewish Community Center)

Hasbro is creating the World's first Global Monopoly and wants to know what our favorite cities are! They've pre-selected 68 great cities for us to choose from.

ONLY vote for Jerusalem!! (From all your email addresses). The 20 pre-selected cities with the highest worldwide votes on February 29 2008 will make it onto the board.

<http://www.hasbro.com/games/kid-games/monopoly/>

Good luck Jerusalem!!

Recently, Jerusalem was # 18. Only the first 20 qualify. Let's make sure Jerusalem

gets in the game. Please send to all your friends.



Shabbat Across America

SHARE A JEWISH EXPERIENCE Shabbat Dinner MARCH 7, 2008

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO PARTAKE IN A
CELEBRATION OF SHABBAT AT TEMPLE SHOLOM

We join together with synagogues across the Americas
SERVICE 6:30 PM
DINNER 7:30 PM

RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

For more information please call:

Temple Sholom at (718) 343-8660

I will attend the Shabbat Across America Dinner at Temple Sholom on
MARCH 7, 2008 at 6:30 PM.

The cost of dinner is:

Adults: \$18.00

Children under 13 years of age: \$10

Name _____

Number of adults attending _____ Total cost _____

Number of children attending _____ Total cost _____

Cost for the family _____



162-05 Horace Harding Expressway, Fresh Meadows, New York 11365

(718) 445-0300 or (800) 446-0406

Visit our website at: www.jewishfunerals.com

ADVANCE PLANNING SPECIALISTS

It used to be there were so many family businesses.....

Now we're one of the few remaining.

INDEPENDENTLY Owned and Operated by the RESNICK Family

Temple *Sholom* of Floral Park
263-10 Union Turnpike
Floral Park, NY 11004