

Dec `07/Jan `08 **Newsletter** *Kislev-Tevet-Shevat 5768*

Temple *Sholom* of Floral Park

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

www.templesholom.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, Dec. 1 Religious School Program 10am Sunday

Friday, Dec. 7 *Shabbat* service 6:30PM, Dinner 7:30pm

Friday, Dec. 14 *Shabbat* service 8pm Friday, Dec. 21 *Shabbat Torah* service 8pm

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

Friday, Dec. 28 *Shabbat* service 8pm

Friday, Jan. 4 *Shabbat* service 6:30PM, Dinner 7:30pm

Friday, Jan. 11 *Shabbat* service 8pm

Sunday, Jan. 13 Adult education 10am

Friday, Jan. 18 *Shabbat Torah* service 8pm Dr. Martin Luther King remembered

Saturday, Jan. 19 *Shabbat* service 9:30am *Bar Mitzvah* of Adam Strominger

Friday, Jan. 25 *Shabbat* service 8pm

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

This is the sermon I gave on Friday night November 16, 2007, 7 *Kislev* 5768, *parashat Vayetze* (Genesis 28:10 -32:3).

A story:

There is a raging flood - a man does all he can to bail water from his house but he finds he is not able to make a difference. His neighbors come by and ask him to join them as they abandon this hopeless situation. He refuses. He prays to God: please help me.

The waters get higher and more ferocious. As he moves from the ground floor to his roof he prays to God: please save me. Soon a small motorboat comes by and the people in it tell the man to get in - they will take him to safety. He refuses. Again he prays: God save me.

A little later a helicopter comes by, extends its ladder, and the pilot urges the man to climb up. Again the man refuses. As soon as the helicopter flies away the man pleads with God: please save me.

Finally the water engulfs the man and sweeps him under. When he next opens his eyes he is standing before God. The man realizes he is dead and he immediately rails against God and bemoans the fact that God did not save him despite all his prayers. God responds: I sent you neighbors, a boat and a helicopter - you needed to help yourself as well.

Now I see this as a good lead in to *parashat Vayaytze*, this week's portion. It tells of our ancestor Jacob on his journey toward his mother's homeland. On this perilous trip, Jacob is fleeing from his twin brother Esau after Jacob stole the first-born blessing from him. There is a recurring word in this portion - it is *makom*, "place". Jacob comes *bamakom*, "upon the place," and decides to spend the night there. The text itself does not tell us where this was. But the commentator, *Rashi*, explains that this *makom* refers to the place that is mentioned in Genesis 22:4, Mount *Moriah*. This is the spot where Abraham saw the mountain on which God asked him to bind his beloved son Isaac. It is to this very site that Jacob flees from his brother Esau's anger and death threat. It is here that Jacob takes a stone as a pillow and lies down. In this place Jacob dreams of a stairway linking Earth and heaven. In the morning he understands he is in the presence of *Hamakom*, God, the ultimate "Place". Jacob now realizes God was always in that place and at first he, Jacob, did not know it. (My thanks to Rabbi Martin Lawson who carefully noted this in *TORAT HAYIM - LIVING TORAH UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS* Department of Adult Jewish Growth Shabbat of December 6, 1997 / 7 Kislev, 5758)

In this *parasha*, God establishes a relationship with Jacob telling him the Divine presence will be with him, as God was with his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac.

Taken together, the story of the man who must recognize Divine help and act on it to save himself and Jacob who must recognize the Divine and establish his own trust and relationship with *HaMakom* is a metaphor, I think, for where our Temple family needs to see itself now. We have been talking about our future since I got here over 3 years ago. For some of that time, we have tried to sell our school building. But that may not be the ultimate answer for us. We may have to decide to sell our entire property to keep our congregation intact. We feel the anger of Esau as we contemplate our future and we feel pushed out of our own house, as does Jacob.

We who see this physical place as *bamakom*, the ancestral home of Temple *Sholom*, need to realize we can imagine another *makom*, another setting as the place where we worship as long as we are together and God is with us. We need to realize we are the *n'shamah*, the soul, of Temple *Sholom* and we can take God, *HaMakom*, the ultimate place, to a new house with us. God's words to Jacob can be God's words to us: Remember I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go...(Gen. 28:15)

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

Happy *Chanukah!* (first night is Tuesday, Dec. 4th) Look for the *Chanukah* blessings elsewhere in this issue. Remember to bring your *Chanukiah* (*Chanukah menorah*) on Friday Dec. 7th so we can all light them together.

And, as this issue encompasses December and January, Marty joins me in wishing you a Happy (secular) New Year. May it be a good year for each of you, and for our congregational family!

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 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,

We should all be very pleased at the outcome of the last congregational meeting on Tuesday, November 27. I am not referring to the outcome of the poll taken on the two questions that were presented that evening for your comment; and I am not referring to conclusions that we all needed to face, I am referring to how we conducted ourselves during the meeting, I would like to thank all of you and all that attended for your decency, your humanity; your intelligence and your perseverance as well as the greatest triumph of all - exhibiting that we could certainly get through one of these meetings decently; without rancor; mutually respecting each other with a free flowing exchange of ideas regardless if they were consistent with our own or not. I think virtually everyone came away feeling that all of our thoughts and ideas were at least represented in an environment of affection and mutual respect...

I was almost overwhelmed this week by the outpouring of emotion and comment that took place in the days following last Tuesday Night from all sides of these very important issues. The one opinion that was universal in all of your comments was as Barbara Rosenthal put it - "I felt positive relief for the first time in my 15 years of attending these meetings as I can really see positive changes for the better..." I want to thank all of you for all of your help and guidance in helping me and all of the members of the congregation that attended to get through this emotionally charged time.

It is never politically correct to cite one person's accomplishments in a group effort except in extraordinary circumstances and the weekend before the meeting Hermine Elias gave up a lot of her free time to review all the documents and to make sure that that I as the presenter and facilitator was completely prepared emotionally and intellectually for this presentation. Hermine not only re-wrote some of what I had initially co-authored with so many members of our Board of Trustees and made it clearer, but made sure I had a very clear command of the tremendous amount of material so that I would be able to transfer as much of that knowledge as possible to all in attendance. Much of what you saw on the podium last Tuesday night including an emotional sidebar was because of the time that Hermine dedicated to this presentation and to all of us.

There are two substantial takeaways that we identified as the underlying tone and tenor of this meeting and the first one came from Jack Spiegelman who said, and I am paraphrasing, that he had been hearing for ten years all the things that we could not do and he wanted to hear about something that we could do. The other was from Maxine Baden who made the statement that all of us staying together as a congregational family would get us through this (transition).

Those two statements seemed to play out in the results of the poll taken at the meeting and here are the results:

There were 38 poll sheets turned in to Board representatives after the meeting and the answers broke down like this:

25 - Sell the entire building and re-locate in the same neighborhood

6 - Sell whatever will create a traditional congregation for us.

31 out of 38 answers or 81.6%

As most of us have come to realize, selling the school building alone will not now or ever create a traditional congregation as discussed during the meeting.

4 - Sell the entire building and merge with another Reform Congregation

2 - If saving the status quo is not possible, Sell the entire building and merge

6 out of 38 answers or 15.8%

These two responses were grouped together as it is now apparent that the status quo can not be saved.

1 - Sell the entire building and dissolve

1 out of 38 answers or 2.6%

This was the only response of its kind citing that "we are too old and too few to continue and the changing demographics in Queens are wrong (to continue).

38 out of 74 member units were represented by 49 attendees at last Tuesday's meeting or 51.3% of the family units or 42.6% of the total membership roster.

It seems that the united voice of the congregation has spoken as they have apparently decided to move ahead to explore the possibilities of becoming a more traditional congregation and not a congregation that is living month to month and dollar for dollar as we have for at least 5 years with others saying that it is actually closer to 10 or 15 years. I would guess that this congregation has been struggling financially for as long as it has not had a substantial income derived from a meaningful investment or a substantial endowment.

I, like the overwhelming majority of you feel that is time to end our struggle and move on as a congregation in a less stressful financial environment. I can assure you that the Board will dedicate its time and its talent to accomplish this as quickly as possible.

Shalom,
Paul

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Chanukah is coming! Get out your *chanukiot* (*menorahs*) for the first night at home - Dec. 4th (the blessings are found elsewhere in this issue). And bring them to Temple on Friday Dec. 7th so we can all light them together. That is a first Friday of the month, so our service is at 6:30pm followed by dinner. Reservations are required - call Dawn in the Temple office.

Note: There will be NO school on Tuesday Dec. 11, (I am away at the Biennial convention of the Union for Reform Judaism - the organization of Reform Synagogues).

We will meet Dec. 18th.

Winter break is: Tuesday Dec. 25 and Tuesday Jan 1.

Upcoming Religious School Saturday programs:

Dec. 1 at 10am

January 26 4pm w/ *havdalah*

I am looking forward to seeing all students at the *Bar Mitzvah* service of Adam Strominger on Jan. 19th. Attendance is required for this service.

And, as this is the newsletter for December and January, Happy (secular) New Year!

Rabbi Becker
rskb@aol.com
212 865-5050

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

Saturday, Dec. 8th is our Annual Sisterhood *Chanukah* Party. Please call in your reservations as soon as possible to Dawn or Gerty Wolf 718 -347-8171. We must have your check by Dec. 1st in order to be able to order the fabulous dinner for you. We will have a wonderful entertainer, Naomi Zeitlin, by popular demand, return to Temple for your enjoyment.

SISTERHOOD'S ADDITIONAL MITZVAH PROJECT

- At the Oct. 10th meeting, there were ARMDI ambulance Banks for everyone to fill up to donate to this wonderful cause. This money will go to Israel to help buy much needed Ambulances.

We would appreciate it if each of you could return your bank filled on Dec. 8th. If you were not there to get one--we would appreciate any donation you could make at our Dec 8th *Chanukah* party for this *Mitzvah* Project. We thank you in advance.

Sisterhood is arranging a trip to the **Holocaust Resource Center in Glen Cove** sometime in March or April. Details to follow.

Murray Leff presented a wonderful Program, Sun. Nov 11th, in honor of Veterans Day. It was very well received by all who attended. This was a presentation of this very unusual time in his life and the lives of the whole world. He described, in great detail, the battles he participated in and showed the video he made, of films he took

during combat in France & Germany. He had a camera under his jacket and a gun in his hand. Not too easy a feat for a very inexperienced young Infantryman. He also wrote a book "Lens of an Infantryman". He signed copies for the people who bought it. He has a few more copies available. If anyone is interested in purchasing one, please call Murray at 718-347-8562. The proceeds are going to the Temple. Thank you Murray.

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.

Adult Education Program

We have set up a three-session study course entitled: "One Heart, Two Homes - Israel and the Sacred Identity of American Jews." for all our Temple members. It will be led by Rabbi Becker, who has obtained this adult education curriculum developed by ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America). The material presented will give us an opportunity for exploring cultural, historical, spiritual, emotional and religious ties between Israeli and American Jews. It promises to encourage much discussion about our personal feelings regarding Israel. The dates are all Sunday Mornings with a light breakfast included. They are: January 13, 2008, February 10, 2008 at 10AM, and a March date to be announced. There will be a \$3.00 charge to offset the cost of the breakfast. Please let Dawn in the Temple Office know if you are coming or call Maxine Baden at 718-631-4696 to reserve or ask questions.

Please join us for study and discussion. This study course is open to your friends and neighbors. We have to know that you are coming so we can prepare properly. It will be a pleasure for our Temple family to learn together.

Herbert Tarr Institute of Adult Jewish Learning

These very worthwhile and interesting study sessions have now begun. Brochures for the entire series of classes and lectures are available in the Social Hall and Temple Office. The Institute classes and lectures are being held at the Old Westbury Jewish Center which is on Jericho Turnpike near Glen Cove Road. If you need more information or have questions, please call Maxine Baden at 718-631-4696.

ONEG:

Mae Rossin 718-359-0297

Dale Demner 718-343-8037

The *Oneg* on Nov. 9th was sponsored by Joan and Harvey Schuster in honor of their granddaughter Molly's *Bat Mitzvah* and Joan's Birthday.

The *Oneg* on Nov. 16th was sponsored by Dacia Horowitz and Jerry Furst in appreciation of all the good wishes for our recent trip to China and especially to Rabbi Becker for the travelers' blessing for a safe trip and safe return.

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.

Happy December Birthday to...

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

Happy January Birthday to...

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

Happy December Anniversary to...

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

Happy January Anniversary to...

Bruce & Catherine Abrams
Jack & Lois Leff

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

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

In Memory of: Remembered by:

Sophie Goldberg	Ida Goldfluss
Martha Steinberg	Karla & Orlando
	Osuna

Leonard Schoen	Hermine Elias
Suzanne Elias	Hermine Elias
Lillian Schoen	Hermine Elias

Sylvia & Daniel Lerner, remembered by
Debbie & Harold Abromowitz

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

GENERAL FUND

- Donation from Dacia Horowitz and Jerry Furst in honor of the birth of the granddaughter of Rose Levine
- Donation from Maxine Baden in honor of the 89th birthday of Phil Kaplan
- Donation from Sam, Mae & Douglas Rossin to welcome back Dacia and Jerry from their trip to China
- Donation from Sam, Mae & Douglas Rossin to thank Paul Trolio for running such a great leadership meeting on Sunday Nov 4th
- Donation from Harriet and Gerald Dubow in memory of Harry Kahen
- Donation from Sam, Mae & Douglas Rossin to congratulate Joan & Harvey Schuster on the *Bat Mitzvah* of their granddaughter Molly, and to wish Joan a happy belated birthday.
- Donation from David Kramer in honor of the memory and unveiling of the stone for Evelyn Kramer.
- Donation from Jerry & Dale Demner in memory of Harry Kahen
- Donation from Abe & Hanna Kormas in honor of the engagement of their nephew Amir

- Donation from Abe & Hanna Kormas in memory of Myron, brother of Eileen Schwartz

Special Contributions

At his video presentation on Nov. 11, Murray Leff graciously donated the proceeds of ten of his books to the Temple. The following people purchased them and thus contributed to the General Fund of the Temple.

- Rabbi Shelley and Marty Becker
- Maxine Baden
- Dennis Baltuch
- Karla & Orlando Osuna
- Mark Rand
- Ann & Stan Strauss
- Roni & Paul Trolio

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Donation from Florence Isaacs
- Donation from Susan Santoni
- Donation from Dacia Horowitz and Jerry Furst "in appreciation of the friendly and meaningfully spiritual way Rabbi Becker conducts the services and offered us the travellers' blessing".
- Donation from Sam, Mae, & Douglas Rossin in memory of Howard Orloff.

THE LARRY WOLF FUND

- Donation from Maxine Baden in memory of Harry Kahen, father of Pam Sabel

SISTERHOOD ONEG FUND

- Donation from Sam, Mae & Douglas Rossin in honor of Phil Kaplan's 89th Birthday.

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

.....
Social Action at Temple Sholom:

***Nothing but Nets:
 One Way to Stamp out Malaria***

Temple Sholom recently kicked off our new Social Action; Social Awareness Initiative; **What does it take to prevent Malaria? Nothing but Nets!**

With the widening issue of global poverty, many are left wondering how they can make a difference. Nothing but Nets is a global campaign to save lives and prevent the spread of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. A \$10 donation goes toward the purchase and distribution of insecticide - treated bed nets - and that can really make a huge difference. The management initiative for this program comes from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation that turns over every single dollar collected for this cause with absolutely no overhead costs assigned to the program. That means, if the net costs \$10, that \$10 gets passed through completely without deduction to buy the net.

Temple Sholom joins the Union for Reform Judaism campaign as a net - raiser team. Save a life. Join our campaign today! Please see the donation box along with the flyers at the Oneg. Please donate today or contact Roni Trolio or Mae Rossin for more details if needed.

I am polling you for any interest in a hockey night to see the Bridgeport Sound Tigers. They are the minor league team for The NY Islanders. The tickets are real cheap (around \$10 or so), they play decent game, the arena is about an hour by car, and it would be a lot of fun.

If you are interested, I will pursue a group rate. If possible, we could make it a small fundraiser.

We would need a few people to volunteer to drive.

Let me know how you feel about this.

Jerry Demner

The **Leisure Club** meets on Tuesdays. Call Grace at 718-343-2299

NEQJCC Calendar

Sunday, December 2, 2007, 1:00 p.m.,
NEQJCC/Y Chanukah Party @ The
Samuel Field Y

Sunday, December 9, 2007, 5:00 p.m.,
Chanukah 5th Day (6th Candle) Menorah
Lighting @ Chabad of EQ

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 February Newsletter is JANUARY 17th. Leave all contributions in the Newsletter mailbox or email to newsletter@templeholom.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@templeholom.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 *mischebeirach* 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.

.....

<p style="text-align: center;">Lots of Money Spare Time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Set Your Own Hours Call 1-800-655-7409</p>

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

November 24, 2007

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 Orlando Osuna at (718) 343-4706 to let him know if you and your family are coming to help. If you do not let us know that you are coming, we will not be able to inform you of any last minute changes that could possibly be made by the Parker administrators.

This year, Dale and I need to be somewhere else, due to an important family life event. Orlando has agreed to handle the project to assure the program's success. We greatly appreciate this. Please help Orlando succeed by volunteering for the day.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Jerry Demner



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