

November 2007 **Newsletter** *Cheshvan/Kislev 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

Services and Events

Friday, Nov. 2 *Shabbat* Service 6:30PM, Dinner 7:30pm

Saturday, Nov. 3 Religious School Program 10am

Sunday, Nov. 4 Leadership Breakfast 9:30 am

Friday, Nov. 9 *Shabbat* service 8pm - honoring our veterans

Friday, Nov. 16 *Shabbat* service 8pm

Saturday, Nov. 17 *Shabbat* service 10am followed by *Torah* study

Monday, Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Interfaith service at St. Paul's Church 8pm

Friday, Nov. 23 *Shabbat* service 8pm

Friday, Nov. 30 *Shabbat* Healing service 8pm

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

On Monday night Nov. 19th at 8pm, we will join St Paul's International Lutheran Church and Our Lady of Snows RC Church in our annual Thanksgiving Interfaith service across the street at St. Paul's. This year's theme is *Global Warming*, a timely concern especially as it was recently announced that former Vice President of the U. S., Al Gore, will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his monumental efforts in this cause.

Just last month, on Saturday October 13th (*parashat Noach*), our religious school students came together to study this issue. We used the flood story to start our discussion of what we can do to decrease our "global footprint", how each of us can lessen the harm we do to the environment. As part of our study we heard from Joe Butera, father of our student Emily (husband of Lori), who founded, and is president of, The Northeast Ecological Recovery Society, Restoring Timber Wolves to the Adirondack State Park.

What was truly amazing, was how much our kids know and understand about this topic. Even in their age range (10-12 years), this has become part of their secular school curriculum and they readily comprehend the ecosystem, specifically the crucial task that trees and plants play - we exhale harmful carbon dioxide, the trees

breathe it in, and the trees exhale the oxygen we need. As we despoil this system, we are doing more than harming the Earth, we are laying the groundwork for our own destruction. As we are taught in *Genesis*: God gave human beings all of creation to tend and care for (*Gen. 2:15*). If we spoil it, there is none to come after us to correct our mistake (*Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7*).

Plan to be with us on Nov. 19th as we pray and sing together in thanksgiving for our beautiful earth, and we make a donation to those who are striving to maintain it.

In an announcement that follows my column in every newsletter, I invite you to *Torah* study on the third Saturday morning of each month. I am now going to ask that you tell me that you will be attending by calling the Temple office and leaving your name with Dawn. I need you to RSVP each month. Please make an effort to come and to be on time. If you are late please enter quietly.

I am still hoping to put together a trip to Israel this year. Please call Dawn in the Temple office and add your name to the list of those who are interested.

Rabbi Shelley Kovar Becker

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

Over the first 120 days since the transition of leadership at Temple Sholom, I along with many members of the Board and our Congregation have begun to examine every aspect of our congregational lives. This is often a painful and time consuming process which has led to some long overdue operational improvements. I have been gratified by the fact that these improvements have been overwhelmingly approved by our Board of Trustees and we will be asking the Board to sustain the enactment of many more improvements over the next few months.

However, during the past 30 days, many of us on the Board of Trustees have discovered that there have been many assumptions that have been made over the past three years that are either categorically untrue or have been substantially misrepresented - the result of which has effectively led to all of us wasting at least two years of time in our attempt to sell the school building.

Over the next thirty days beginning with the first leadership meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 4, our leaders and congregation will very likely be deciding on a potential real estate transaction that will be the determining factor of what our future will look like at Temple Shalom. During this thirty day period, the Board will also detail to the Congregation the assumptions that have been discovered to be substantially false and an action plan of what we propose to do to rectify this situation.

I realized, much to my dismay that my experiences during this first 120 day period have told me that I can no longer assume that the things that we thought were true really are true. Sadly, it appears that the only way to confirm the accuracy of anything is to fully investigate everything - with the Board, The Congregation and our team of outside advisor's help. This is no one individual's fault. In the past we relied on the opinions of a select few rather than empowering many more among us to investigate the key elements of issues of vital importance to all of us.

With that in mind, I realize that I do not know with a high degree of certainty what type of congregation you all want to be. Here are some options:

Caretaker Congregation - This means that the congregation literally only takes care of the members they have over a prescribed period of time or until the cash flow becomes negative - whichever comes first - and then liquidates the Temple's assets as prescribed by the New York State Religious corporation law. The congregation does not solicit any members; sponsors very few if any programs; and is essentially in existence just for the spiritual and emotional needs of a forever shrinking congregation.

This is more common than you think as the Belle Park Jewish Center decided that this is exactly the course that they wanted to pursue, that's why they sold their entire building - not just the school portion of their building - to David Esfani. The Belle Park Congregation's membership profile is made up of 100% seniors and the way Byron Dresner, our attorney and Belle Park's, characterizes it is that it is the expectation of the members that within 10 years, the membership roster will all be completely deceased.

Congregations only interested in preserving the status quo - This means exactly what the title says it means - that the congregation tries to continue at the precise same service and program level going forward that it did when the congregation decided to preserve only the status quo - let's call these congregations Preservationists. There is a time honored axiom that simply states that if you are not moving ahead you are falling behind, and that is exactly what some preservationist congregations have experienced.

Based on several conversations with those familiar with the situation, we recently discovered that it appears that Temple Torah in Little Neck decided about three years ago that it wanted to be a Preservationist congregation. Many of their members have recently discovered that sustaining this type of status is difficult to achieve because you still have to attract new members by drives and programs in order to replace members who have transitioned out of the congregation. Unlike the congregation that has a pre-determined expiration date like Belle Park; they still need to provide services that are either consistently excellent or improving. Once Temple Torah realized that they could not prevent membership slippage which is one of the key factors is keeping the status quo, they

apparently needed a quicker fix than waiting for drives and programs to attract new members, they signed an exclusive contract with the well regarded Colbeh Caterers.

There is now a move at Temple Torah to embark on a different path as they are considering a merger with the Little Neck Jewish Center that will be voted on November 13th. Often times, life does come full circle as Temple Torah was originally founded by former members of the Little Neck Jewish Center. Temple Torah, substantially smaller than Little Neck, has come to realize that keeping the status quo is certainly more challenging than they originally thought.

A Traditional Congregation - This description means different things to different people, but to me this means a vital and vibrant congregation that makes a difference in the lives of our own Jewish Community and the surrounding community. It is a congregation that becomes a center for educational, spiritual and quality of life programs and finds creative ways to financial solvency so that these programs can continue. It also means that there is a consistent membership drive because without either an influx of additional new or replacement members, we will likely end up like either the Belle Park or Temple Torah congregations - either slowly expiring or in a constant state of flux and tumult. Does one or both of these descriptions sound familiar?

It is incumbent upon the President and the Board of Directors of a Temple to find out exactly the type of congregation its members want and to get as close as possible to delivering it. It is no different here at Temple Shalom. Based on my experience during the past 120 days as your President, I will no longer accept a characterization of what is true and what isn't without an investigation - especially when it comes to precisely what the congregation wants for its future. .

Shortly, we will be asking you what you want. You may want a Caretaker Congregation complete with an expiration date like Belle Park, or you may want to try and preserve the status quo like Temple Torah. Of course, I am hoping that the majority of you want what I do - a traditional congregation that has the potential of a vibrant and vital future that will be here serving our community long after we are gone.

Shalom,
Paul

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hello all,

As you read in my column on the front page, I was "blown away" by our children's knowledge of environmental issues. I am hopeful they will take care of the earth we are entrusting to them.

You should have a class list. It was sent in e-mail. Let me know if you did not get it.

Please save the following calendar.

School will continue every Tuesday afternoon through Dec. 4th. Note this change: There is NO school on Election Day, Nov. 6th. There will be NO school on Tuesday Dec. 11, but we will meet Dec. 18th.

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

Religious School Saturday programs:

Nov. 3 at 10am
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.

Rabbi Becker
rskb@aol.com
212 865-5050

SISTERHOOD

Due to a conflict in scheduling dates, we have to cancel our breakfast on Sunday, November 11. The Social Hall has been rented and because the rental money is very important to our Temple, Sisterhood must make other arrangements. **We have changed the breakfast to an evening event on the same day**, Veterans Day, November 11, with the same fascinating program to begin at 7PM with refreshments at a cost of \$3 admission.

Murray Leff will present a video of a Photo Memoir of WWII Infantry Combat entitled "Life of a WWII Rifleman." This haunting memoir details Murray Leff's live infantry action, recorded with a camera hidden under his field jacket while fighting with the 35th Infantry Division. His 2007 book, *Lens of an Infantryman* will also be available and be signed personally by Murray Leff. Come down and be part of this special experience.

On Saturday, December 8 at 7PM, Sisterhood will again sponsor a *Chanukah* Party for our Temple Members, your families and friends. The food will be as scrumptious as ever - turkey with all the

trimmings and of course potato latkes. We will have a *Chanukah* Candle Lighting ceremony and you can bring your own *Menorahs* as well. Our highlight of the evening is our entertainment - back by popular demand - Naomi Zeitlin who has prepared a very special program for Temple Sholom. We will all enjoy the dinner, the program and the *Chanukah* Celebration. Don't miss this special night. The cost is \$20.00 per person and \$10.00 for children under 10. Reservations are a must and have to be in by December 1st. Call Dawn in the Temple office at 718-343-8660 or Gerty Wolf at 718-347-8171 with your reservations.

We look forward to seeing all of you and greeting you with Happy *Chanukah*.

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: December 2, 2007, January 13, 2008, and February 10, 2008 at 10AM. 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 Oct. 12th was sponsored by Mae Rossin and family in honor of Mae's return to good health with the help of the prayers of the congregation.

The *Oneg* on Oct. 26th was sponsored by Gary and Barbara Rosenthal and David and Jackie Kaplan in honor of Philip Kaplan's Birthday.

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 November Birthday to...

Jerome Demner	Nathaniel Ginsberg
Ryan Healy	Murray Leff
Rebecca Lynch	Karla Osuna
Joan Schuster	Justin Ahiyon
Harriet Dubow	Harry Yarwood
Nancy Zim	

Happy November Anniversary to...

Robert & Susan Turin
Arlene & Harry Yarwood
Stuart & Judith Weinstock

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

Yahrzeit Donations

In Memory of:

Samuel Grossman
Morris Sheingold
Leonard Freed
Harry Sundack
Jules Gerver
Leonard Schoen

Remembered by:

Muriel Gorochow
Cynthia & Allen Zim
Phyllis Freed
Anne & Hank Sundack
The Gerver Family
Hermine Elias

Sally Weissman & Julius Weissman, remembered by Lovey Anita Lowatsky and Natalie Weissman

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

GENERAL FUND

- Donation from Barbara and Richard Frankel in honor of the birth of Madeline Rose Gerard, great granddaughter of Annette Gerard
- Donation from Nat and Florence Ginsberg in honor of the birth of Annette Gerard's great grandchild Madeline Rose.
- Donation by Larry & Nancy Abraham in honor of Charles Muir, Jr.

- Donation from Ann B. Karp in memory of Mel Gerard
- Donation from Muriel Gorochow to congratulate Dale & Jerry Demner on their son's forthcoming marriage
- Donation from Karla & Orlando Osuna in honor of Maury & Dara's aufruf.
- Donation from Shirley Snyder in memory of Mel Gerard and Evelyn Cohen
- Donation from Barney and Lorraine Bragin in honor of Doctor Todd J. Bragin
- Donation from David Kramer in memory of Evelyn Kramer and in recognition of the unveiling of her stone
- Donation from Nat & Florence Ginsberg in honor of Abe Kormas' birthday and Abe & Hannah Kormas' anniversary

Donations in memory of Mel Gerard were received from

- Rose Geringer
- Harriet and Gerald Dubow
- Roni Trolio
- Larry & Nancy Abraham
- Rick Burdick
- Harmon & Rhonda Around
- Henry Flax

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Donation from Roni Trolio in loving memory of her brother Arnold Koslow, and her father Bernard Koslow.
- Donation from Fran Smith in honor of the engagement Dara and Maury (Demner)
- Donation from David Kramer in memory of Evelyn Kramer

THE LARRY WOLF FUND

- Yahrzeit Donation by Gerty Wolf and Family in memory of Solomon Weisser, Rose Wolf, and Dorothy Weisser
- Donation from Ruth Gerver in memory of Mel Gerard and Evelyn Cohen
- Donation from Maxine Baden for Mae Rossin's return to good health

SISTERHOOD ONEG FUND

- *Mazel Tov* Donation from Debbie & Harold Abramowitz on the approaching marriage Maury Demner to Dara.
- *Mazel Tov* Donation from Dacia Horowitz and Jerry Furst on the marriage of Maury & Dara
- Donation from Dacia Horowitz and Jerry Furst for refuah shlema to Mae Rossin

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

.....
 Thanking Rabbi Becker and the congregation for all their good wishes and prayers which helped pull me through to a speedy recovery. I appreciate all your efforts which the Rossin family will never forget.

Sincerely, Mae, Sam, and Douglas Rossin

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

NEQJCC Calendar

Monday, November 12, 2007, 8:00 p.m. NEQJCC Executive Committee (Regular meeting)

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 December Newsletter is NOVEMBER 19th. 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.

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