from

Rabbi Steven Kushner

The scene was a Beit Din. A rabbinic tribunal. A court of Iewish law. We were welcoming in a new Jew. A convert. A Jew-by-choice. No doubt for some rabbis these rituals are big formalities. An opportunity to seriously inquire of the would-be Jew. I can imagine the fear and trepidation that fill the expectant soul. "Will I be able to answer all their questions? What if I can't? Would they reject me?" But for my colleagues and me, the Beit

What makes a Jew?

Din is less an examination than it is an opportunity. We already know that the candidate is acceptable. We trust each other. There is no need for proving anything to anyone. Instead we see it as an opportunity to meet another Jew standing at Sinai.

Of course, the waiting room at the Teaneck mikveh hardly seems like the foot of The Mountain. One wall is distinguished by a 12-foot make-up table. A mirror backs it up from end to end. Hair dryers and brushes, all the things someone needs to re-enter the outside world after a ritual immersion, are ready and waiting. Across the room is a water cooler, maybe to help ease those waiting to take the plunge. The moisture from the mikveh waters saturates the atmosphere: the drawn window shades have beads of water hanging on for fear of

losing their identity in the wooden sill below. And in the middle of the room is a desk. I have seen more spiritual places in bus stations. We pull

some chairs together, to form a kind of abstract circle. On one side are the three rabbis. Sitting across from us is the geirah (the convert). We smile. She smiles back. I wonder what is going through her mind. Then her sponsoring rabbi, the one

who has brought her to the Beit

Din, makes his formal presentation. He introduces her, explains to us who she is, how long they've studied. He asks her to share with us what has brought her to this point. For the next fifteen minutes we just talk. We ask a few questions, offer some sage wisdom on the pitfalls of being Jewish. She nods. I have no doubts about her. The way she talks about our tradition, how Judaism has enriched and filled her life for over twenty years, reminds me why I do . what I do. She exudes a sense of confidence. Conversion is not a change but a completion. She speaks of feeling "whole". As we each intuit that our dialogue is drawing to a close, that we're ready to move to the next step-the immersion, her rabbi asks one more question. "Tell me, what are you looking forward to? When this is all done, what moment will bear the most meaning for you in the days ahead?" Without hesitation she says, "Saturday morning. minyan." She looks to me and explains, "We don't get many. It's a small group. But for all these years I've been going, I never counted. I couldn't be included." Yet lest I think she was looking forward to being counted in the minyan (the necessary quorum of ten adult Jews for prayer) for her own sake, she continues, "They have given so much to me but I've never been able to offer anything in return. Until now. Now I count. Now I'll be able to help 'make' the minyan."

This is a Jew.

Purim at Ner Tamid

Purim Carnival Sunday, February 24, at noon The Temple Ner Tamid Youth Group will once again hold its Purim Carnival. See article on page 11 for all the details.

Purimspiel 2002 My Fair Esther, March 3 at 7 p.m. You will not want to miss the annual lavish spectacle known as the "Temple Ner Tamid Purim Play." See article on pg. 11.

Shalach Manot

Partake in one of Purim's wonderful mitzvot—sending Shalach Manot and good wishes to fellow Temple friends. See article on page 5 for all the details on this wonderful tradition.

Megillah Readings

Monday, February 25, at 7 p.m.

Those attending the Megillah Reading on Erev Purim are encouraged to wear costumes! See article on pg. 12 for details.

Tuesday, February 26, at 11 a.m.

Join us for the reading of the whole Megillah (in English) at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 26. A light lunch (bagels and assorted nosherei) will be served afterwards.

Shabbat at Ner Tamid in February

Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat services at 8 p.m.

Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.: Tot Shabbat Feb. 8: Senior Youth Group Service

Feb. 22: Anniversary Shabbat Babysitting is available every Friday night and the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

B'nai Mitzvah

February 2: Molly Dinnerstein/Alexandra Furst February 23: Rachel Polton/Matthew Portnoy

Nishmat & Nova

Come join us the second Saturday of every month when we hold our casual minyon. We read the entire torah portion, engage in a lively and spirited discussion, and finish with a light Kiddush lunch. Babysitting is available. Join us February 9 at 10 a.m.

TEMPLE NER TAMID

936 Broad Street Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003

Telephone: (973) 338-1500 Fax: (973) 338-4486 www.nertamid.org

A PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE SERVING BLOOMFIELD, GLEN RIDGE, MONTCLAIR AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

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VP Education

Lisa Berlin

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Deminda i idiz

Sisterhood Liaison

Sonia Rapaport

Seniors Co-Presidents

Herman Glucoft Inge Strauss

Youth Group President

Alexandra Klein

Temple Topics Staff

Barbara Shapiro Furst Elinor Neifeld from

Marge Grayson President

Kehilla

Since September 11th, (sorry to start with that again, but...) the turning to this community has been extraordinary. I know I went into that 2 months ago as I introduced to you the Hebrew term *Kehilla*, which means community.

As we continued our long-term planning, it became clear that *Kehilla* would be the theme for our future. As I have told you before, three years ago, the Board of Trustees decided that we needed serious attention to long-range planning and established a group that became known as the B Team (for reasons no longer worthy of examining or possibly remembering). In two years of brainstorming which expanded to a broad sampling of the congregation, the consensus came about that we need to expand our programming to continue to meet the expanding needs of our growing congregation.

Did you know that since our last expansion and renovation in 1995, membership has increased by 30% to over 500 families (and families continue to join us even in the middle of the year)? Our Religious School enrollment during the same time period has increased by 50% to over 400 students. On virtually every day, every corner of our building is being used multiple times and for multiple purposes. We fulfill our mission so well that our activities and programs are straining our building's capacity.

So, where are we? I am excited to tell you that we are now ready to take the next steps to serve our community even better, to help Ner Tamid continue to fill its role as a center of Jewish life and learning, for now and for the future.

The Board of Trustees has, without dissent, voted to proceed with a campaign to raise at least \$1.75 million to create an endowment fund and a building expansion. The planned Endowment fund will provide continual funding for additional programming to help our members grow Jewishly. The Endowment would support expenses associated with programming including staff costs. The contemplated expansion would be 5000-square feet in the front of the building to accommodate a flexible multipurpose room and additional spaces for a variety of gatherings including prayer, life cycle celebrations, classes and lectures, together with office and storage space.

We have already made a lot of progress. David Abramson is chairing this; vice-chairs are Richard Horowitz, Jane Kessler, Steve Klein, Mark Perwien, Richard Polton, Robert Rich, Rochelle Sandler, and Sarah Segal. While formal solicitations have not begun, a core group has already committed to substantial donations.

Well over 50 people have expressed interest and willingness to be involved in the campaign and plans for the future. We have set up a campaign structure. Sarah Segal, Roberta Zeff and Anne Marie Nolin have been working on campaign literature, and doing a fantastic job, and Allan Gorman has created a gorgeous and meaningful logo that I look forward to sharing with you shortly, when the campaign materials are published. Rochelle Sandler is chairing a Building Design Committee, comprised of about 20 people, that has met with architects, and has narrowed down parameters and will be ready to proceed with final selection shortly. Jane Kessler and Lanny Katz have been working on Donor Recognition opportunities.

So, we are ready to go full steam ahead now on the plans and the fund-raising. I invite each of you to be a part of this; I look forward to sending you brochures and capturing your interest and enthusiasm to help us become a far better place for all of our members—for our future, for our *Kehilla*.

from

Cantor Jessica Levitt

Reform Judaism needs its own 24-hour television network.

I've had digital cable for about a year and it's great. It gives you the ability to flip through what is playing on other channels without actually changing the channel. I'm a flipper, so even when I'm watching something I wonder if something better is playing elsewhere. In the course of my flipping I always pass through Channel 54 EWTV with wonder.

EWTV is the television network of the American Roman Catholic Church. It is impressive. There are live masses shown throughout the day and there are rosary recitations scrolled over scenes of the Galilee. It's like a religious CSPAN meets MTV. There are talk-shows, explanations of liturgy, profiles of saints, music shows, teen shows, book reviews, Catholic author series and even call-in shows to a crusty nononsense nun named Mother Angelica.

Imagine...

Monday - Friday 3:30 p.m. The Aleph Bet Club

Turn it on when you come home from elementary school for a half-hour Hebrew show with songs, stories, letters and a word of the day. It keeps kids letter recognition fresh from Sunday to Sunday and gives them something else to watch besides violent Japanimaton. Think Sesame Street but with less Spanish and more Hebrew.

Monday - Friday 4:30 p.m. Shireinu (Our Songs)

A program for teens and pre-teens with Jewish singer/songwriters like Doug Cotler, Rick Recht, Yom Hadash and Debbie Friedman. The latest hits from the camps of Reform Judaism could be played with videos, explanations of the songs and their deeper meanings, and cool ultra-hip hosts. Think TRL but with fewer belly-buttons and more yarmulkes.

Services: Shacharit/Mincha/Ma'ariv

For shut-ins, the ill or anyone who wants to pray but can't leave home, you can pray morning, noon and night when services are broadcast from different Reform synagogues live. Services from B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills and Temple Emanuel are already broadcast on the radio – why not have a video feed from a rotating list of temples willing to provide this service?

Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

How We Pray with Rabbi Ploni ben Ploni

Interested in understanding the liturgy? Tune in weekly as Rabbi Ploni takes us through the structure of the prayerbook for Shabbat.

Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Tiyul with Rabbi Shira Simcha

Explore Israel with Rabbi Simcha as she explores the homeland of the Jewish people each week.

We could program holiday recipe shows, tours of knish factories, show Jewish movies, Jewish arts and crafts shows, as well as political discussions and commentary. In short, everything that would entertain, educate and inform in a Reform Jewish context.

Judaism is not something we can relegate to Friday nights and Sunday mornings — for better or worse, we spend our lives in front of the television. Can't we use this technology to enhance our Jewish lives? There were once Yiddish Radio stations all over the country. There are now new Jewish websites every week. There is so much to learn, to explore and to enjoy. I have a dream. I want to flip through the digital channels and find a place for Judaism. Hey, I can dream, can't I? Who knows? We could call it WTNT: Your Jewish Home on the Air.

Thank you to the following people who have made pledges to our High Holiday Appeal between December 12, 2001 and January 15, 2002.

David & Tamara Abramson Muriel Chavkin Christopher & Anita Czar Jerry & Rhonda Einhorn Steven & Beth Goodman David & Kathy Korngruen

Steven & Beryl Leffler Mark Pesner & Patricia Einbender Belinda Plutz Irv & Evelyn Shakin Lawrence & Madeline Weinstein To date, 186 families have participated; additional contributions will be much appreciated and will be acknowledged next month when we will give a final round-up.

Juliet is dead. Or least it appears that way. Romeo kills himself when he thinks that his beloved Juliet has died. Little did he know that Juliet is in a potion-induced sleep and not dead at all. Poor Romeo. Had he only looked beyond appearances. Had he only tried to discover the truth. As we acted out this scene in one of our seventh grade classes on mitzvot we tried to analyze it from a Jewish perspective. What responsibility do we have to save a life, even our own? Can truth appear to be fiction and fiction truth? Is truth central to our lives?

from

Iris Schwartz Education Director

We learn in Ten Minutes of Torah this month that Jewish tradition teaches that truth, *emet*, is the beginning, middle and end of everything. The three Hebrew letters in the word *emet*, alef, mem and tav, are the first, middle and last letters of the alef bet. *Emet*, truth or honesty, ribbons through every aspect of our lives, from how we deal with others to how we understand our own motivations and behaviors to our ability to connect to God. The Torah considers *emet* essential for people to live together peacefully.

Our theme this year for Ten Minutes of Torah is Middot, or Jewish values. Each week we focus on a word which represents a particular value, a path of behavior that should merit our consideration as Jews. It is not enough to look at the standard definition of each word. Rather, we are obligated to search for meaning on three different levels: bayn adam l'chavero (how the middah can enrich us in relationship to others), bayn adam l'atzmo (how the middah can enrich our day to day personal life as an individual), and bayn adam l'Makom (how the middah can enrich us spiritually in terms of our relationship to God). When teaching Torah I always use the analogy of the text being a gift that we need to slowly unwrap. Each layer of packaging, the

bow, the paper, the box, etc. represents another level of meaning. When we unwrap *emet*, truthfulness, we discover the following questions which will lead us on in our search for meaning. *Bayn adam l'chavero*. That we are truthful to others is central to Jewish teaching. Is being truthful a central part of how we really live our lives? *Bayn adam l'atzmo*. What does it mean to be true to ourselves? *Bayn adam l'Makom*. What does it mean to be true before God?

The entire Torah is a blueprint for how we live our lives in relationship to others, to ourselves, to our world and to God. We do our best during religious school hours to teach and inspire our students to understand and live theses values that are the heart of Judaism. However, the teaching of values is really in the domain of the home. Parents are their children's finest teachers. But in order to do the best job possible, it is incumbent upon parents to be knowledgeable Jews so that passing on Jewish traditions and values comes as naturally to us as breathing. Most of the skills we need for being Jewish are inborn. It doesn't take a course in calculus to learn to visit the sick or feed the hungry. It doesn't take an M.B.A. to learn to give tzedaka. It doesn't take a PhD. in sociology to understand the value of community, tradition and belonging. We knew these things once. We can know them again. Everything we do, every aspect of our lives should be guided by our Jewish principles. If we are to survive as people and if people are to survive as Jews we must go back to our basic middot, Jewish values, learn them again for ourselves, incorporate them into every aspect of our lives, and teach them to our children.

Please join Rabbi Kushner each Sunday morning from 10 to 10:30 a.m. as he "unpacks" a different middah, Jewish value, during the Ten Minutes of Torah class for adult learners. The experience will not only enrich your life, but the lives of those you love. Spend thirty minutes a week being involved in Jewish learning. The value of what you do won't be lost on your children. It might even change how you "unwrap" the contents of your life.

Religous School Important Dates:

Saturday, February 2. K/1 Havdalah Program

Wednesday, February 6 Grade 7 trip to the Kosher food pantry (group 2)

Sunday, February 17 through Wednesday, February 20 No School

Sunday, February 24 Grades 1 and 2 Family Education Program

Monday, February 25 No School, Erev Purim

Potpourri

Purim Is Here...Shalach Manot Time

This is a reminder for everyone to partake in one of Purim's wonderful Mitzvot—sending Shalach Manot and good wishes to fellow Temple friends.

It's not too late to get your lists into the Sisterhood mailbox. Please mark them attention: Arlene Kraus.

Gift boxes will be given out ALL DAY on February 24th, during religious school, Purim Carnival, before and after the Purimspiel, and on February 25 before and after the Megillah reading and services.

We need volunteers to help in filling boxes and giving them out on February 24. Please call Arlene Kraus at 973-661-3430 or email <arlenekraus@hotmail.com>

Women's Shelter for Battered Women

Sisterhood continues to support those in our community who need our help. Please bring CLEANING PRODUCTS and PAPER GOODS to the Sisterhood Gift Shop. We will be donating these products to the shelter.

Sisterhood Tribute Fund

Condolences

Helen Green Memory of brother
Martha Fritz. . . . Memory of daughter
Susan Fader Memory of mother
Barbara Sach Memory of father

Thank You

Ruth Jackler.......... Good wishes for recovery
Leila Goodman....... Good wishes for Dylan's Bar Mitzvah
Esther & Oscar Kettler... Good wishes for Zachary's Bar Mitzvah

Get Well

Bill Goldstein Herb Pimes Ruth Jackler

Sisterhood Adult Education

Rabbi Kushner's "thought provoking" discussions, the Bible, and other issues will give you the satisfaction of a wonderful learning experience in the library on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Dates: 2/6, 2/27

Anniversaries

Mazal Tov to the following couples who will celebrate their anniversaries in February and will be honored at Shabbat Service on February 22:

Christopher & Barbara

Brooks

Norman & Bernice Colie Alan & Nancy Ellenbogen Ted Gabel & Beth Perlman

Lewis & Paula Gash Nathan & Mary Katkin Steven & Beryl Leffler Earl & Evelyn Pfeffer Mark & Suzanne Roth

Roger & Ava Solomon Steven & Beth Sternberg

Is it January already? The school year is halfway over and with that we still have many things to do and learn. Last month our parent conferences went well. Our Open House in January for the 2002-2003 school year was extremely successful. Enrollment

from

Joan Goodman Shoresh Director

for next year is increasing at a steady pace and we expect to be full shortly. If anyone is interested in enrolling their child, please call us immediately.

School photos are set for March 4, 2002. Plans for a school Purim celebration are underway...watch for our flyer.

Next year we will be increasing our teaching staff. If you know of anyone who has an education background and a love for children, please the contact the school.

Until next month.

Seniors

ouis R. Druian Fellowship Circle, co-sponsored by Temple Ner Tamid, the Weiss Family Endowment Fund and Dorothy Druian in cooperation with the JCC Metropolitan NJ and the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section.

Meetings are held at Temple Ner Tamid, 936 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Current events discussion and/or video aerobics start at 11:15 a.m., followed by (bring your own) dairy lunch, and then the feature presentation at 12:15 p.m. Meetings conclude with a business meeting.

February Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 6.....Trip to JCC West Orange to see MAME

Bus will depart Ner Tamid at 9:00 a.m.

Cost is \$20 per person, bus and lunch at JCC is included

Ticket only is \$10 per person

Tuesday, February 12"What is Alternative Medicine"

Tuesday, February 19Purim Celebration with Ner Tamid Nursery School

Tuesday, February 26Megillah reading with Rabbi Kushner and Cantor Levitt

followed by concert by cellist Bernard Shapira

Upcoming Events/Trips

Wednesday, March 13Trip to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in NYC

Cost is \$32 per person

Monday, March 18JCC Passover Seder

Cost is \$4 per person

Bus will depart Ner Tamid at 10:00 a.m.

Wendy L. Grossman, D.P.M. PODIATRIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY

905 Broad Street
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003

(973) 566-0811



Temple Ner Tamid

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					9:00am PreSchool 7:00pm Tot Shabbat 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am B'not Mitzvah of Alexan Furst & Molly Dinnerstei (Yitro) 5:30pm Gr.K/1 Havdalah Dinner
8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am Youth Choir Rehearsal 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Sisterhood Board	9:00am PreSchool 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NY 8:00pm Exec.Board	9:00am Bus for Senior Trip 9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S. Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S. Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat 8:00pm Sr.Yth Grp Service & Overnight (Shul-In)	10:00am Shabbat Service 10:00am Casual Minyan
8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am Youth Choir Rehearsal 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am Grade 4 Family Ed. 1:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 6:00pm Yth Grp Purim Construction	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9	9:00am PreSchool 11:00am Seniors 8:00pm Bd of Trustees	9:00am PreSchool 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Religious Afffairs	Confirmation Trip to Amsterdam 9:00am PreSchool 10:30am Blmah Time 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am Shabbat Service
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Temple Ner Tamid

March 2002

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					9:00am PreSchool 7:00pm Tot Shabbat 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am B'nai Mitzvah of Joshua Doros & Perry Phillips (K Tissa/Parah)
8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am Youth Choir Rehearsal 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 12:00pm Hebrew Classes 6:00pm PURIM SPIEL	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Sisterhood Board	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Exec.Board	9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool	9:00am PreSchool 6:30pm Shabbat Table Shabbat Across America 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	8 servation Quest 10:00am Shabbat Service 10:00am Casual Minyan
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8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 8:30am Gr.2 Family Ed 10:00am Youth Choir Rehearsal 10:00am 10 Mins. of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 12:00pm Cantor's Hebrew Class	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Sisterhood Meeting	9:00am PreSchool 12:00pm Lunch with Rabbi NJ 8:00pm Religious Affairs	9:00am PreSchool 10:00am Sist.Bible Study 4:00pm R.S.Grades 3-5 6:30pm Gr. 7 Family Ed. 6:30pm R.S. Grade 6-7 7:00pm R.S. Gr.11-12 7:00pm R.S.Grade 10 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am PreSchool 7:30pm Tikkun Olam	9:00am PreSchool 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Lane Goodman (Tzav/Hagado
8:30am R.S. Pesach Program 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 8:45am Temple Tots 9:30am Youth Choir Dress 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am Genesis 12:00pm Hebrew Classes	9:00am PreSchool 4:15pm R.S.Pesach Program 4:15pm R.S. Grades 6-7 6:30pm R.S.Grade 8-9 8:00pm Rel.Sch.Comm	9:00am PreSchool	First Seder NO RELIG.SCHOOL	10:00am Pesach Service	PESACH 8:00pm Erev Shabbat- Pesach Services 8:00pm Youth Choir Sings 8:00pm Anniversary Shabbat	9 10:00am Shabbat Service
PESACH 8:30am R.S. Grade K-3 10:00am 10 Mins.of Torah 10:45am R.S. Grade 4-5 10:45am Genesis 12:00pm Hebrew Classes 6:30pm Sr, Yth Grp Costume Party						

SUPPORT THE TEMPLE NER TAMID RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CANDY SALE!

The TNT Education Committee sponsors the annual Barricini Passover Candy Sale to raise funds for religious school activities. The Religious School retains 45% of the Candy Sale proceeds.

To order Barricini candy for Passover, just follow these easy steps:

- 1. Complete the order form on the reverse side of this sheet.
- 2. Make check payable to "TEMPLE NER TAMID"
- 3. Consider purchasing an extra box of candy to donate to the Kosher Food Pantry. A box for donations will be available at the time that the candy is available for pickup.
- 4. Mail completed order form and check to:

Karen Straim 196 North Mountain Ave. Montclair, NJ 07042

You may also put your order form and check in a sealed envelope marked "Passover Candy Sale" and place it in the Candy Sale Box located in the Temple lobby.

Please do not mail your form and check to Temple Ner Tamid.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

Printed Candy Sale brochures are available in the Temple Lobby.

Candy that has been ordered will be delivered to the Temple during the week of March 18. You will be notified when your order has come in.

Questions? Call Karen Straim (509-8468)

THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL THANKS YOU!

PASSOVER CANDY SALE ORDER FORM

Name	Carlo de Al Welton	1.7
Phone	E. E. HARKET	
Address		

Item	Item #	Price	Qty.	Amount Due
Dark Chocolate Covered Macaroons (8 oz. box)	2031	\$9.50		
Assorted Fruit Slices (8 oz box) (raspberry, lemon, orange and lime)	2032	\$9.00	rede Ve Storen	
Milk Chocolate Almond Bark (8 oz. box)	2033	\$9.50		
Cashew Patties (8 oz. box) (cashews covered with caramel and chocolate)	2034	\$9.50		
Lollicones (3 oz. box) (solid milk chocolate on a stick)	2040	\$5.50	9 4-	WALLEST V
Raspberry Jells (6 oz. box) (raspberry flavored jells covered with dark chocolate)	2042	\$8.50		
Seder Mints (9.25 oz. box) dark chocolate shell with mint cream inside)	2157	\$10.00		
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE				

Please make check payable to "Temple Ner Tamid" (Details on reverse side of this sheet).

Please mail order form and check to Karen Straim, 196 North Mountain Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042 or place in the Candy Sale Box in the Temple lobby.

Please DO NOT mail order, check or form to the Temple.

Ner Tamid is About People

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Naomi & David Kaplan (Leah, Emily, Eva) 306 No. Mountain Avenue, Upper Montclair, 973-783-1031

Diane & Scott Marshall (Andrew, David) 124 Inwood Avenue, Upper Montclair, 973-783-4214

Gail & Cecil Polin (Lindsey) 53 Highfield Road, Bloomfield, 973-338-5333

Robert Bass (Justin) 205 Ridge Road, Nutley, 973-667-1195

Yahrzeits

Shabbat 2/2 Anna Appel Fred J. Balk Morris Bellet Blanche Bianco Deborah Bussin Isidore Chevat William Chrobersky Lena Daniels Joseph Ebner Alice Friedland **Iacob Friedland** Dorothy Friedman Irving Gash Jerry Gershenoff Sol Gerson Barbara Holstein Samuel Indek Milton Jankolovits Lillian Kaufman Pearl Lasky Sid Lasky Harry Lefkowitz Hannah Lief Isidore Meshover Lilyan Morris Cecilia F. Olinger Philip Roffman Dr. Leo S. Sacharoff Philip Schomer Ruth Kane Shapiro

Sam Silverman

Dr. Jack Smoger Minnie Spitz Leo Steinbach Frank Stone Elsie Weizelman Yetta K. Wien Teresa Yablon

Leonard Zombek Shabbat 2/9 Joseph Abramson Irving Altwarg Ruth S. Aron Vincent Bailey Leon Barnard-Jeserski Paula Belove Frances Berg Helen Bernstein Louis Borowsky Joseph Ebel Aaron Fagin Bernard L. Friedman Esther Friedman Martha C. Gallert Sidney Gershon Eva L. Gross Rose Hertzbera Milton Klein Harry Krischer Florence C. Kurzman Ruth L. Molnar Eve Osofsky Irving Polin

James M. Rakov Chris Restaino Shirley Siskin Abraham N. Sokolow Esther Sondok Morris Wax Abraham Weinberg Fannie Wolfson Samuel A. Yasen

Shabbat 2/16 Ethel Aisner Samuel Ames Betty Deitch Michael Elberg Albert Feiertag Bernard L. Friedman Ben Glassman Paul Hirsch Herbert Jacobs Edward King Emma Kolb Mollie Koppel Florence Lazarus Joel Linder Nehama Lipman Jack Lipsky Leslie Milhauser Pinchas Morginstin Kate Nodell Isidor Okun Beatrice Pini Morton Polster

Bertha Potofsky **Jennie Price** A. Martin Randall Louis Rockowitz Sadye K. Rosen Mark Rosenberg Marjorie Rothenberg Morris Rubin Sander Sacks Harry Sandler Edyth Stein Siegfried Ulmer Morris Wasserman Irving Yam Joseph Zeitlin

Shabbat 2/23 Sidelle Albaum Eshka Brown Louis Canter Louis Chipkin Dr. Hona Cohen Belle Ehrlich Edith Ellis Joseph Exstein Ruth Feinberg Claire C. Genser Nathan German Harry Halpern Meta Hirsch **Jack Jabush** Rose D. Kalter Ralph Kaufman

Irving Levine Ruth Margareten Savilla Margareten Harriet Miller Philip Neiman Harry Nepo Joseph Perlman Max Rochlin Mae K. Rubin Claire Russ Joseph Sayres Henry Schlyen **Esther Schmidt** Manning Schreiner **Jesse Selter** Lawrence Simon Bruce Tennen Anna B. Tobias Harry Vigdor Samuel Weinberg Michael Weinstein Louis L. Weiss Bertha Wien David J. Wolf



B'NAI MITZVAH

Daughter, Sarina Jill Robik, born on December 5, 2001. Mazel Tov to Andrea and Scott Robik, and big sister Abigail

February 2. . . . Molly Dinnerstein/Alexandra Furst

February 23. . . Rachel Polton/Matthew Portnoy

REFUAH SHLEIMAH A Quick and Speedy Recovery

Herb Pimes Ruth Jackler Harry Shapiro

THEIR MEMORIES ARE A BLESSING

Harold Bruntel Beloved father of Jane Phelps Rosalie Davis Rhoda Dolobowsky Beloved mother of Susan Fader Kurt Haller Beloved husband of Blanche Haller Sandra Schwaighofer . . Beloved daughter of Martha Fritz Henry Stetz Beloved father of Barbara Sack Sidney Wax..... Beloved brother of Helen Green







Sunday Mornings General Studies

BEGINNING WITH GENESIS

SPRING SEMESTER

No text in Judaism has been more loved and debated than *Sefer Bereishit*—The Book of Genesis. Is it just a haphazard collection of great stories or is there a message in the whole? Are the stories factual or true (there *is* a difference)? What is a *myth* and why is it so important for modern Jews? These and many other questions will form the basis for an extended introduction to the Book of Genesis. Modern scholarship as well as ancient rabbinic commentary will be brought to bear onto our examination of this most beloved of sacred texts.

Instructor: Rabbi Steven Kushner

Sundays: 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. March 17, 24, 31; April 7 and 28; May 5

Fee: \$15



Hebrew Language Skills

HEBREW AIN'T THAT HARD

YEAR-LONG

You CAN learn Hebrew! It's never too late to learn the Alef-Bet! The goal of this weekly class with Cantor Levitt is to introduce the letters and vowels of the Hebrew alphabet, but more importantly, to use that knowledge to decode our ancient words and their deeper meanings. We'll learn the building blocks of Hebrew in order to deepen our understanding of Jewish tradition, whether through the prayerbook, the Torah, or the mystical tradition. The Hebrew alphabet is more than letters on a page, it is the key to increasing your Jewish knowledge and enriching your own spirituality.

Instructor: Cantor Jessica Levitt

Sundays: 12 noon to 12:45 p.m.

March 3 and 17, 24, 31; April 7 and 28; May 5

Fee: \$60 [+ materials]

MAKING SENSE OF HEBREW

YEAR-LONG

Now that you can make the sounds, don't you want to know what they mean? Wouldn't it be nice to open the siddur (prayerbook, from the root [s-d-r] meaning 'order'), see a word and be able to comprehend its inner meaning? Rabbi Kushner will lead you onto the path of learning how to decipher Hebrew words. While not a comprehensive course in Hebrew grammar, you will develop the fundamentals necessary for basic translation. Fluency in the Alef-Bet required.

Instructor: Rabbi Steven Kushner

Sundays: 12 noon to 12:45 p.m.

March 3 and 17, 24, 31; April 7 and 28; May 5

Fee: \$60 [+ materials]

Sunday Evening Lectures

March 10, 2002 / Olga Litvak SHALOM ALEICHEM'S TEVYA & HIS DAUGHTERS: The Making of the Modern Jewish Family

Olga Litvak (PhD, Columbia, 1999), Assistant Professor, Princeton University and member of the Jewish Studies Faculty, is a specialist in modern Jewish history. She is currently completing a book on the role of literature in Russian-Jewish culture and beginning work on a study of Jewish artists and the making of modern Russian art.

Dr. Litvak is a dynamic lecturer and one of the nation's emerging great scholars on Jewish life and culture. Born in Russia, she is fluent in several languages and is a key member of the Jewish Studies Program at Princeton. Dr. Litvak suggests (but does not require) that attendees to the lecture see the movie "Fiddler on the Roof" and read the Tevya stories of Shalom Aleichem before the talk to refresh their memories.

Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m.
Admission for all lectures is \$10 per person.

April 28, 2002 / Carol Ochs
FINDING GOD IN OUR OWN STORIES

Carol Ochs (Ph.D., Brandeis, 1968) is Director of the Graduate School and Adjunct Associate Professor of Jewish Religious Thought at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. Her research, writing, and teaching concentrate in the areas of Jewish spirituality, comparative religion, and Jewish feminism. In addition to teaching spiritual guidance, she serves as spiritual guide to rabbinic, cantorial, and Doctor of Ministry students. Prior to joining the faculty of HUC-JIR, she taught philosophy at Simmons College in Boston.

Among her many publications are Our Lives as Torah: Finding God in Our Own Stories (Wiley/Jossey-Bass, 2001), Song of the Self: Biblical Spirituality and Human Holiness (Trinity Press International, 1994), and Behind the Sex of God: Toward a New Consciousness Transcending Matriarchy and Patriarchy (Beacon Press, 1977).

Weekday Daytime

LUNCH WITH THE RABBI

Once again Rabbi Kushner returns on Tuesday afternoons to guide you on paths of deeper understanding of our sacred tradition, all while digesting your afternoon meal. This year we will study *The Way Into the Jewish Mystical Tradition*, authored by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. While not a comprehensive or exhaustive treatment of Jewish mysticism, this text affords the reader an easy and fluid opportunity to develop an expanded vocabulary of the concepts of *Kabbalah*, particularly within the context of Hasidism. You may emerge more confused than when you entered, but you'll be able to impress your friends with some extraordinary insights. Guaranteed to make lunchtime uplifting.

All sessions begin with lunch at 12 noon and study from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

■ Lunch in New York at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 633 3rd Avenue, is held on the first available Tuesday of the month.

February 5, March 12, April 9, May 7, June 4

■ Lunch in New Jersey at Temple Ner Tamid (in the library – dairy or *pareve* lunch only) is held on the second available Tuesday of the month.

February 19, March 19, April 16, May 14, June 11

Fee: \$18 [The book is available at the Temple office for \$20]

From The Grotta Foundation... Yad b'yad

"A BUDDY

A "Buddy" is a person who is there for you to talk to

A "Buddy" is person who is caring

A "Buddy" is a person that will give an extra minute

A "Buddy" is a person there for sharing

It's a word that means companion It's a word that conjures warmth It's a word that makes your heart stir It's filled with joyfulness and mirth

We all have friends so dear to us We all could use another The specialness of "buddy" Is equal to no other

The recipient of "buddyness"
Is truly, truly blessed
But the "buddy" receives even more
For the "buddy" is the best.

Won't you sign up to be a "buddy?" It means only a little time each week to make a phone call or check in with someone who would appreciate a friendly voice. Call the temple today and sign up for this most worthwhile endeavor. You'll get much more than you give, I promise.

Sheila Eidelman

Tikkun Olam

The Tikkun Olam Committee has responded to the World Trade Center attacks by sponsoring a series of discussion groups for congregants, aimed at sharing experiences, hopes and fears. Led by a professional facilitator, the groups will continue on Sunday evenings in March, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. (Look for dates in the next Temple Topics.) All are welcome.

The Tikkun Olam committee's next major effort will be an April "Mitzvah Day," in conjunction with the religious school. Activities will include clean-ups, work at a local food bank, and a blood drive.

Other efforts by the committee include forming a "sister congregation" relationship with a budding Reform congregation in Cherkassy, Ukraine, assisting with ARZA's get-out-the-vote effort, and supplying the Montclair Food Bank.

For those interested in joining in the Tikkun Olam committee's work, the next meeting will be Thursday February 21st at 8 p.m. at the synagogue. Coffee and cookies will be served. For more information, contact the Tikkun Olam chairperson Larry Westreich at 509-1444 or <Westlar@aol.com>

Hospital Work on December 24 and 25

A total of about 70 volunteers participated in the activities at Clara Maass Hospital in Belleville (fourteenth year) and at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson (fourth year). As in previous years most helped for about two hours to allow the hospital staff and other volunteers to have time off to enjoy their Holidays. The tasks included activities at the front desk, telephone inquiries, and whatever else was requested, such as operating the gift shop, cookie cart, visiting patients or doing errands for a staff member. This was time was well spent.

Additionally, the Shoresh School collected 25 children's books for the children in St. Joseph's Hospital.

I have received several thank you letters from members of the hospital staffs and administrations expressing the deep appreciation for those Temple members that gave of their time. The letters were presented to the Temple Board of Trustees and may be reviewed at the Temple Lobby Bulletin Board.

If you have not experienced this activity, and want to be part of this event in December 2002, please advise coordinators Debby or Harvey Morginstin. Make it your first mitzvah resolution of the New Year. Who knows, it could become a tradition?

Thank you to:

Laurie, Bruce, Lane and Emily Goodman; David Korngruen; Mitch, Jed and Molly Dinnerstein and Julie Blackman; Cantor Jessica Levitt; Dede, Howard, and Benjamin Hirsch; Tobin, Rebecca and Rachel Unger; Jon, Meryl, Allison and Elizabeth Asher; Tim Wyatt and Gideon Korn-Wyatt; Judy Fischman and family; Lisa, Anthony and Adam Reid; Marge, Paul and Jennie Grayson; Jed and Jesse Beitler; Sara and Andrew Goldstein; Anna Miller; Julia Surow; Eugene, Ben and Jacob Goldberg and Amy Lazarus; Alan, Michael and Mathew Vomacka and Annie Garcy; Debby and Harvey Morginstin; Shirley Sapir; Ken and Alex Traum and Diane Lavenda; Joyce Frommer; Barbara Furst; Audrey and Richard Lasday; Steve, Ben and Emily Klein and Nancy Barbe; Dorothy and Sheldon Altwarg; Mike, Linda and Marcello Halitzer; Jules and Gerry Lavner; Chris, Peter, and Sam Hitchcock and Ellen Sherman.

Religious School Donation Appreciated

The Temple acknowledges a \$500 donation to our religious school from the Jewish Memorial Chapel of Clifton, the non-profit funeral home sponsored by the Passaic-Hebrew Burial Society for the benefit of the Jewish residents of the surrounding communities.

We suggest consideration of their services (when needed or before) on the basis of professionalism, proximity, and price. For additional information, contact Herb Bilus 973-338-7103.

Youth Group News

The Temple Ner Tamid community has always supported the youth groups, SNoTTY (9th -12th grades) and the Jr. Youth Group (6th - 8th grades) in some way. Perhaps it was getting your car washed on September 23rd by the senior youth group and then taking it down to the Mobil station to have it cleaned and waxed. Maybe it was buying a decorated pumpkin or home-made fruit basket at Sukkot. Or maybe it will be using the babysitting services of the SNoTTYites on December 3rd while you holiday shop, or it will be donated time, purchasing raffles or goods and services at our annual Purim Carnival. Perhaps it will be joining us at the annual Youth Service on Friday, February 8th, 2002. Perhaps it will be to shep some nachus as the Senior Youth Group at Temple Ner Tamid hosts the NFTY-GER Regional Elections on April 7th, 2002.

Whether it is one, two, red fish or blue fish (ok bad Purim carnival joke), we appreciate your support both financially and spiritually. I would be remiss if I did not share with the TNT community that with your help and assistance, the youth groups helped to raise over \$1,000 for the UAHC Disaster Relief Fund relating to the Twin Towers disaster.

Now to let you know what's going on with your TNT youth groups:

Senior Youth Group—affectionately known as SNoTTY (Senior Ner Tamid Temple Youth) has a wonderfully talented and committed youth group board who help plan and coordinate their own calendar of activities.

President: Allie Klein
Membership VP: Jessica Lee
Social Action VP: Joanna Stein
Religious and Cultural VP: Jake Adler
Programming VP: Jesse Eisenberg
NFTY-GER Rep: Doug Herbst
Secretary: Emily Goodman
Freshman Rep: Emma Einhorn

The Junior Youth Group has also recently elected a board which we hope will learn from their wonderful role models.

President: Cary Goldberg

Communications VP: Robert Resnick

Grade Reps: Jennie Grayson, Gabe Kraus, and Ben Hirsch.

Again, I would like to thank you, the Temple Ner Tamid community, for your ongoing support and dedication to the youth.

Sharon Rappaport, Youth Director

PURIM CARNIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS

l,		, would l	ike to purcha	se raffle tickets.
1 for \$2	3 for \$5	8 for \$10	12 for \$15	18 for \$20
Enclosed	please find	d a check for	\$	
Please ma	ail my ticke	ets to:		
Name				
Address				

Purimspiel 2002 My Fair Esther March 3 at 7 p.m.

Sunday evening, March 3, 2002, is the date of the annual lavish spectacle known as the Temple Ner Tamid Purim Play. At 7 p.m. you will see 50 fellow temple members sing and dance the story of Queen Esther to the music of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe. Remember My Fair Lady? Camelot? Gigi? Brigadoon? Well, you've never heard those songs quite the way you'll hear them on March 3rd.

That evening, you'll be transported to Victorian London for the re-telling of the Megillah, with King Ahasuerus transforming Esther from a guttersnipe to a lady who passes for royalty - and saves the Jews. Never since Sherlock Holmes has there been a hero so clever as Mordechai. Never since Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett have there been villains as cruel and cunning as Haman and Zaresh. See them all in a performance that will be fun for the whole family. And affordable, too, since there is no charge.

Come early to get the best seats. Stay until the end to sing the finale with the entire cast. Try to identify the one song that is Fritz Loewe's music but not Alan Lerner's lyrics to win the door prize. And, best of all, enjoy the holiday of Purim with an experience that Clive Barnes of the New York Times described as . . . alright, so he never saw the TNT Purimspiel. But you know he would have loved it if he had. And so will you.

Purim Carnival February 24, Noon to 2:30 p.m.

The Temple Ner Tamid Youth Group will once again hold its Purim Carnival on Sunday, February 24 from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the social hall.

This year we have started a new tradition and we need your support more than ever. All of the proceeds from the raffles and carnival booths will go directly to Temple Ner Tamid Youth Group members to defray the costs of social action and religious and cultural events.

We can all be Mitzvah Heroes. Please join us for fun and games on February 24 from noon to 2:30 p.m. while supporting OUR community and celebrating Purim. Purim is the holiday with which we celebrate Jewish Mitzvah Heroes like Mordechai and Esther who helped save the Jewish people and the heritage we work so hard to preserve.

If you would like to order your raffle tickets in advance (you do not need to be present to win), you may do so by completing the tear off to the left and sending it along with your check payable to "Temple Ner Tamid Youth Group," Temple Ner Tamid, 936 Broad St., Bloomfield, N.J. 07003

Thanking you in advance for your support. Looking forward to seeing you all on February 24th!

Sharon Rappaport, Advisor Allie Klein, Youth Group President Doug Herbst and Jesse Eisenberg, Board Purim Carnival Coordinators

MONTCLAIR HADASSAH PRESENTS "THE KEY FROM SPAIN: FLORY JAGODA AND FAMILY IN CONCERT"

On Sunday, February 10, 2002, at 4 p.m. the Montclair Chapter of Hadassah will present "The Key From Spain: Flory Jagoda and Family in Concert," an internationally acclaimed program of traditional Ladino songs from the Sephardic Jewish tradition of Bosnia, as well as original compositions, at B'nai Keshet, 99 South Fullerton Avenue, Montclair. Proceeds will benefit the Emergency and Trauma Center of Hadassah - Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem.

Jagoda will be accompanied instrumentally and vocally by her children, Betty Jagoda Murphy of Montclair, Lori Lowell, and Elliot Jagoda.

During their centuries of exile, the Sephardim maintained their unique culture with astonishing faithfulness. Their songs, preserved largely by the women, paint a vivid portrait of their daily lives, religious observances, memories, and longing for their Spanish homeland. The music spans a broad range of styles and blends the themes and sounds of their adopted countries.

Jagoda's performances, accompanied by slides of Sephardic life in pre-World War II Yugoslavia, often bring audiences to tears, with her moving expressions of the sorrow and hardships of survival in exile. The songs are sung in Ladino (Castillian Spanish, written in Hebrew letters), and English translations and transliterations will be provided to encourage audience participation.

General Admission tickets to "The Key From Spain: Flory Jagoda and Family in Concert" are \$25 per adult, \$10 per child (10 years or older). Sponsors (\$50) and Benefactors (\$100) receive 1 preferred-seating ticket, admission to the pre-concert wine and cheese reception and film; and are listed in the program. For directions or further information, call 973-509-7712.

Megillah Reading on Erev Purim

Monday, February 25, at 7 p.m.

In order to ensure proper Purim silliness and security, new measures have been adopted by your local office of Shushan-Land Security. Those attending the Megillah Reading on Erev Purim are encouraged to wear costumes!



There will be a costume parade with prizes for all children! Adults are encouraged to wear costumes and/or silly hats! Any adult not wearing a costume or hat will be stopped, questioned and asked to contribute \$1.00 or more to our special Purim *Tzedakah* Fund.

Thank you for your cooperation in this very ridiculous matter!

RESERVE THE DATE

Another fabulous

Shabbat Table is taking place on

March 8. Watch your mail for details.

February Candle Lighting Times

February 1 . . . 4:56 p.m. February 8 . . . 5:05 p.m. February 15 . . 5:13 p.m. February 22 . . . 5:22 p.m.



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