



My comments from the Congregational Meeting

At *Sinai* we were offered
Torah and encouraged to
embrace it - to
embrace the possibilities it
offers to *guide us*
through the wilderness and
lead us to a
Promised Land.



We join here tonight at the conclusion of Shavuot, the festival that is traditionally thought to be that moment when the Jewish people stood at the foot of Sinai to receive the Torah. As Jews, Torah provides the context for our lives. When we attempt to understand what it means to be created, *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God, it is to the Torah that we turn. Torah provides the foundational principles, the ethics, the teachings which guide us as we seek to make our lives Godlike. It is with a heart turned to Torah that I offer these concluding remarks:

from the desk of

Rabbi Barry Litz

First, let me express my utmost gratitude to Rabbi Brown. He has been, and continues to be, an important model and mentor teaching me daily what it means to be a rabbi and teacher. Our tradition teaches that Moses received the Law on Sinai and delivered it to Joshua; Joshua in turn handed it down to the elders; from the elders it descended to the prophets, and each of them delivered it to his successors. That tradition continues to this day, each leader handing Torah to the next. I am truly honored, blessed

Continued on page 10

When
life
imitates

art

Israeli Art Festival • Oct. 10-14

An exciting opportunity is coming to our synagogue in October. We have the honor of having been selected by the Safrai Art Gallery of Jerusalem to be a presentation site for an Israeli art exhibition and sale for the whole community. You won't want to miss this, so be sure to mark your calendars and hold the dates of Oct. 10 through 14.

Safrai Gallery is the largest distributor of Israeli art work in the world, and enjoys an outstanding reputation for the quality and variety of its collection. This exhibition will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your friends to experience the excitement and richness of Israel's expanding art culture.

We will have on exhibit and for sale the works of over 70 artists representing more than 2,000 works, including oil, watercolors, serigraphs, woodcuts and etchings.

There will be something for every taste in every price range.

Watch for further information, including a special Patrons reception.

This event promises to be fun, educational and a wonderful opportunity to see and purchase Israeli art directly from a Jerusalem art gallery.

For further information contact Carol Stern at gusstern47@msn.com, or Judy Alban at Jeaco@aol.com

PULPIT CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 6

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Lutz and Cantor Linsky, Parashat Pinchas (Num. 25:10-30:1)

SATURDAY, JULY 7

5 p.m. Shabbat Afternoon Services

JACOB SPEER, Bar Mitzvah
Son of Lisa & David Speer

FRIDAY, JULY 13

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbinic Intern Lindy Davidson and Cantor Patti Linsky, Parashat Matot/Masei (Num. 30:2-36:13)

SATURDAY, JULY 14

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

ADRIENNE NAOR, Bat Mitzvah
Daughter of Francine & Eran Naor

FRIDAY, JULY 20

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Outdoor Summer Services with Rabbi Lutz and Cantor Linsky, Parashat Devarim (Deut. 1:1-3:22)

SATURDAY, JULY 21

5 p.m. Shabbat Afternoon Services

JEREMY GERBER, Bar Mitzvah
Son of Deborah & Jay Gerber

FRIDAY, JULY 27

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Lutz and Cantor Linsky, Parashat, Vaetchanan (Deut. 3:23-7:11)

SATURDAY, JULY 28

5 p.m. Shabbat Afternoon Services

DANIELLE KENT, Bat Mitzvah
Daughter of Tammy Kent

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbinic Intern Lindy Davidson and Cantor Linsky, Parashat Ekev (Deut. 7:12-11:25)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

HARRISON AND BENJAMIN ROSENMAIER, B'nai Mitzvah
Sons of Jennifer & John Rosenmayer

5 p.m. Shabbat Afternoon Services

MICHAEL DUBINSKY, Bar Mitzvah
Son of Daisy & Edward Dubinsky

Board Meeting Highlights

The May Board meeting opened with Barry Krowne presenting the TASK Force report. Issues covered by the committee included High Holiday tickets, what people value in our community, and does the clergy have an obligation to officiate at lifecycle events for non-members. Several recommendations were made by the committee and include: transforming our campus into a more welcoming community with more signage; easy access to information; and beautifying the grounds. They recommended the hiring of an Executive Director/Fund Raiser to spearhead the annual giving campaign and coordinate and oversee the various areas of the Temple including the clergy, office staff, lay leaders and other volunteers.

Rabbi Lutz's report continued with the themes presented by the Task Force, particularly the need to make Temple members and guests feel welcome and creating a sacred community at our synagogue. A private donation, earmarked for remodeling our Temple office, should enhance both its aesthetics and usefulness.

Carol Stern reported on the Temple Art Festival Oct. 8-14, which will include over 2,000 works of art provided by the Safrai Gallery of Israel. Robin Gilmour reported on Sisterhood and its incoming slate of officers, which includes Robin Gore as the incoming President. Brian Hatkoff reported on Men's Club and its new officers for the coming year. Brian will continue as President. Men's Club is working on a program with our Rabbinic Intern to help get more men involved in the Jewish community.

Getting involved with your Temple community is as easy as sending me an e-mail at DALieber@aol.com. Just let us know what you would like to do or which committee you are interested in. We look forward to hearing from you and encourage you to attend Board meetings held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Temple.

Debby Lieber, Recording Secretary

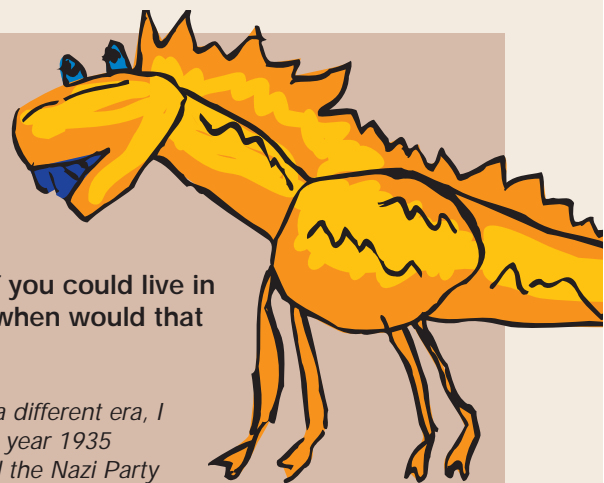
Life in the time of dinosaurs and hippies

Today's Topic: If you could live in a different era, when would that be and why?

If I could travel to a different era, I would travel to the year 1935 when Hitler started the Nazi Party so I could try to stop him. I don't know if I could, but I would get all the help I could get and I would do everything in my power. I don't know if I would succeed but at least I knew I tried.

Elias Rubin, 12
Oakwood School, North Hollywood

Reprinted from the Daily News



Report to congregation

We are approaching the end of the current fiscal year, a year that has had many challenges for our community. This has been an exciting year, with changes that will occur over the coming year. Difficult decisions had to be made. I would like to address all of the exciting events over the year, and then I will address some of the ongoing challenges.

During the fall we held focus group meetings to see what was on the minds of the congregation. Rabbi Alan Henkin and another member of the URJ led the focus groups. There were eight groups, consisting of 12 to 15 congregants in each group. From the results of these meetings, I appointed a Task Force to address some of the following questions:

- 1.** What are the rights and privileges of membership at TAS?
- 2.** Should there be any rules regarding the performance of life-cycle events by the clergy for non-members?
- 3.** Should High Holiday tickets be sold to non-members? If so, should restrictions be placed on who can purchase tickets? Should any distinctions be made between member tickets and non-member tickets?

The Task Force also was instructed to address additional issues as they arose and to report to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. This was a monumental task and will have an impact on our community for years to come.

After leading us for the last 21 years, Rabbi Brown will become our Scholar-in-Residence, as he hands over the leadership of the congregation to our new Senior Rabbi, Barry Lutz. Rabbi Brown will continue to serve the congregation without the responsibility of the day-to-day operation. This will be a smooth transition as Rabbi Lutz has grown up here from Educator to Rabbi Educator to Rabbi – and now Senior Rabbi. During the last several months Rabbi Lutz has linked our congregation with Synaplex, a program that will enrich our worship and study.

president's message

Ron Friedman

Some of the other exciting events of the last year include:

- 1.** Our first congregational trip to Israel, with Rabbi Lutz leading over 45 members, was an amazing experience for those lucky enough to travel with us. We bonded as a family; we prayed, sang, hugged and laughed together. We were not going to let a few missiles stop us. We will be back in 2008. Join us for the next TAS Israel trip.
- 2.** Our Confirmation class traveled to Washington, D.C., and met with representatives of Congressman Brad Sherman's office. Twenty-one confirmands inspired us with their love for TAS. There were not many dry eyes as we watched our children grow before our eyes.
- 3.** On January 19, our Shabbat Service was led by Rick Recht in a spirited rock and roll service.
- 4.** Our school program has been enhanced with a 12th grade class for our high school students.
- 5.** In April TAS screened the movie, "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West" with Nonie Darwish speaking after the movie. This movie is being shown all around the world and was well attended.
- 6.** Adult education classes continue to draw large attendance from our membership.
- 7.** Our new security system was installed with funds obtained from a \$100,000 grant from Homeland Security. During a recent bank robbery that ended in a car chase in Granada Hills, TAS had a successful lockdown on the campus.
- 8.** New computer software has been installed to improve our member tracking information and allow for optimizing our e-mail communication with the congregation.

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Safe and secure

The TAS Security Committee wants to thank the Men's Club for its generous grant that helped fund the purchase of our new walkie-talkie system.

The safety and well-being of the children in our schools, as well as our congregants and visitors, is always our No. 1 priority. This new system will only enhance the security system that we have in place.

This grant once again shows the community spirit of TAS and how we are indeed one big family.

Please donate!

Would you donate blood for a fellow member of our TAS community?

Jewish tradition teaches that the greatest mitzvah is *pikuah nefesh*, the saving of a life. There are times when members of our Temple turn to the congregation for blood donations. Usually this happens when surgery is scheduled in advance, but the patient is not well enough to donate his or her blood and/or family members are not qualified donors.

Temple Ahavat Shalom would like to create a data base with the names of potential donors. We would use this information only to try to find directed blood donors for a congregant in need.

If you would be willing to participate in this mitzvah, please fill out the form below and either leave it in the Temple office or e-mail it back to Sue Issler at sissler@socal.rr.com.

ALL INFORMATION WILL REMAIN COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL ONLY BE USED TO HELP MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION!

Remember, our tradition teaches us that if one saves one life, it is as if they have saved the entire world!

NAME _____

BLOOD TYPE _____

BEST WAY TO REACH YOU:

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Reflections on an unforgettable trip

Last summer, Rabbi Lutz took about 50 members of the congregation on a life-changing trip to Israel. The two-week adventure included ancient sites, the Western Wall, museums, great food and fun with each other on the Mediterranean beaches. Highlights included climbing Masada, swimming in the Dead Sea and bargaining with vendors in the middle of Jerusalem.

The 12-hour plane ride was a little long, but it was definitely worth the wait! Although a lot of the country is ancient, some of the more modern cities make it seem as if you are not thousands of miles away. The nightlife is very different than in Los Angeles. The country eats dinner at about 9 p.m., and more people wander the streets at night than during the day.

At first, I had a hard time adjusting to the time change, but then I got used to it.

Rabbi Lutz is taking another group of lucky travelers in the summer of 2008. Reserve your spot now and experience the Jewish homeland with fellow TAS congregants.

Sean Greenhut



scenes from the annual meeting



Photos by Al Lapidés



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From page 3

In October we will host the Safrai Gallery of Israel Art Show, which will allow our membership to acquire some fabulous Judaic art.

These are just some of the many events that have occurred over the past year or will take place soon, along with our Gala, Cantor's Concert, Alster Event and many others that I have not mentioned.

With all the excitement of the past year, I want to discuss some of the challenges we face as a congregation. Last year at this time, our budget was built under the presumption that we needed to raise \$400,000 to balance the budget. This represented 20 percent of our annual expenditures. The URJ has recommended that congregations should expect to raise this amount on an annual basis, and we expected to raise that amount. In our previous fiscal year, we raised over \$300,000 from 186 families. We have asked the congregation to realize that if we are to continue as a vibrant Jewish community, then our mindset has to change and annual giving must be part of our culture. Unfortunately, TAS did not reach our annual giving goal. This year over 150 families donated \$290,000.

Our Budget Committee and the Board of Trustees struggled over this issue for many days. Every line item of the budget was reviewed for possible cuts and potential increases in revenue. The choice was not an easy one. There was no alternative. The teachers and clergy

needed to be paid and the regular operating expenses met. Accordingly, an assessment was approved by the Board of Trustees. These last few years of deficits need to be solved, thus the Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of a Fund Developer/Administrator. For the next fiscal year, we will continue to hold the line on expenses, with no increase in salary for the clergy.

On a positive side, over the last seven years the mortgage has been reduced by approximately \$700,000 leaving our outstanding debt at just over \$1.7 million. We will continue to reduce the mortgage by almost \$100,000 every year at this current rate.

Over the last two years, I have worked with a fabulous Executive Committee, which has supported and guided me. They are Ed Lucks, Lisa Kantor, Barry Krowne, Lynn Miles, Jerry Hilecher, Ken Gross and Debby Lieber. Lynn and Ken will be leaving the committee, and I will truly miss them.

Several members of the Board of Trustees have completed their terms, and I thank them for their dedication and commitment. They are Arnold Alban, Shelly Garelik, Linda Leibovitch, Cheri Cheney, Paul Silver, Robin Gilmour and Jacey Simon.

I am excited about working with Rabbi Lutz and the Board of Trustees over the next couple of years. TAS is a vibrant community with programs that will lead us to new heights.

Ron Friedman, President

Spotlight on Sisterhood

Keep in touch so we can keep in touch with you

Congratulations to all of our college students who have graduated. Welcome to all of our high school students who are joining us.

TO ALL RECENT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADS, PLEASE E-MAIL US YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND CELL PHONE, BIRTHDATE, E-MAIL, SCHOOL OR JOB DESCRIPTION AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.

We love to hear from our alumni. Please share with us your summer and school plans.

Dori Daniels is finishing her third year at UC Santa Cruz. At the end of June she will be traveling to Israel with Birthright Israel and extending her trip to stay with friends.

At the end of summer she will be traveling with a small group of Hillel students to Argentina. Argentina is the only South American country with Hillel chapters (2) and she is participating in their student exchange program. For two weeks, Dori will be involved with tzedek projects, social events with local students and exploring the country.

Alex Free and Jason Weiss are also participating in the Birthright programs this summer.

Alumni Outreach will be growing in significant numbers next year, which means the budget needs to increase. When you are making donations as you honor or memorialize your loved ones, please make donations to the Alumni Outreach Program. We are grateful to the families who have made donations to our alumni program. By doing so, you have allowed us to keep our young adults connected with each other, their Temple and their community.

We hope everyone has a fun and relaxing summer.

TAS ALUMNI
OUTREACH



Debbie Weiss and Mindy Free
TAS Sisterhood Alumni Chairs

Phonemom56@aol.com/ HockeyMom39@socal.rr.com

Do you Escript or Goodsearch?

Raising money for our Temple is a click away. Remember to use www.GoodSearch.com as your primary search engine, registering our Temple as your charity of choice. We earn money every time you log on and conduct a search. And please, don't forget to register your credit cards, grocery loyalty cards and ATM/Debit cards with www.Escrip.com, or the forms found in the Temple office. Every purchase made with your registered cards to qualified vendors earns our Temple money and you scrip credit.



BAR/BAT MITZVAH ✦ WEDDINGS ✦ BIRTHS ✦

ANNIVERSARIES ✦ PARTIES

Sisterhood

can help you with your
personalized announcements
and invitations.

For more details, call Judith Gottlieb at 363-6924

The impossible dream

"The Impossible Dream," one of my all-time favorite songs. Who would have thought over a decade ago when I stepped into TAS for the first time that I would become Sisterhood President? Thinking back, I would not even have dreamed it. But as the years went by, after bouncing from committee to committee and board to board, it's happening, and I'm younger than 50!

I want to dedicate my service to TAS to a phenomenal lady in my life. Several years ago when my aunt Selma Marcus passed away, we were in her apartment cleaning out her personal items. We came across a drawer full of Sisterhood pins from Sinai Temple Westwood. She was very active in her synagogue ever since she moved from New York. It was her joy to serve the ladies of her synagogue. At the time I was yet to be so involved in anything. But then my thoughts changed after seeing how dedicated and well respected she was by her community. I now dedicate most of my involvement in Temple life to her, and I know she would be so very proud of me.

Here are some thoughts for all you ladies of TAS out there. This is a new year, a new board and new programs to get involved in. We are planning more programs to appeal to everyone. Sending your kids to camp next summer? Check out how we do fundraising to support our campership scholarships. Need advice on parenting? We've got plenty of that, too.

So please remember that our TAS Sisterhood is not just your "grandmother's" Sisterhood anymore. We are women of all ages. We are 18++. This is what matters. You can meet new friends and reunite with old ones. Last year our membership was just over 200. With over 700 families at TAS, we should have at least that many women for members. Still not sure? Then come to a meeting. They typically are held on the third Thursday of the month, depending on program and schedule. Try it, you'll like it. We serve refreshments too! Sunday, Sept. 16, will be the first meeting of the year.

Hope to see you around,

Robin Gore, President

Book, photo exhibit honors seniors

For several years Ojai resident Fred Rothenberg has taken photos of senior volunteers and asked their thoughts on why they serve the community. His photographs have been compiled in a new book, "Faces of HELP of Ojai."

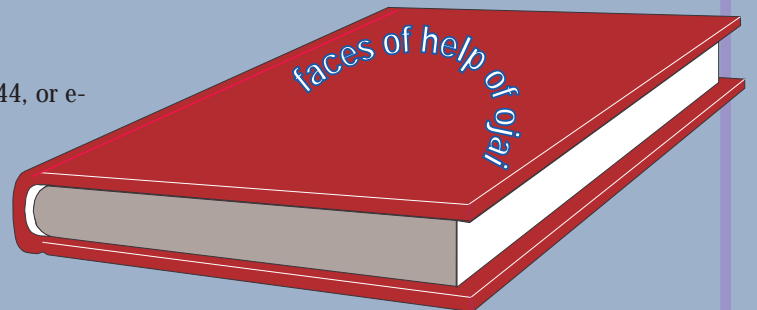
Spotlighting 20 men and women, "Faces of Help of Ojai" honors some of the hundreds of volunteers who have given their time and energy to make HELP of Ojai the caring organization it is.

The books have received national recognition from the Corporation for National Service, the parent of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Fred and Ila Rothenberg co-produced the book.

For additional information, contact Kathleen Tarrats at 646-0144, or e-mail her at kathleent@helpofojai.org.

Congratulations to Fred and Ila for the contributions they continue to make to their communities.



Knot another Torah Talk!

Judaism is a strange religion. Most religious or political movements have a symbol which is a quick way of identifying their existence. Christianity has a cross. The anti-war movement has a peace symbol. Judaism has the Star of David, but this is actually a more recent symbol. It is not from the Biblical period. The most important, most powerful and least known symbol in Judaism is one which you would never guess. It is a knot.

Surely, we must be joking. How could Judaism's most mystical symbol be something as simple as a knot? What about the seven-stem menorah? When Titus sacked the Temple in Jerusalem, it was the golden menorah which he carried back to Rome to proclaim his victory. What about the mezuzah? Surely this item is a significant statement about our faith. The knot, however, is mentioned more prominently in the Torah than any of these. In fact, the entire relationship of the People Israel to their God can be traced back to a knot.

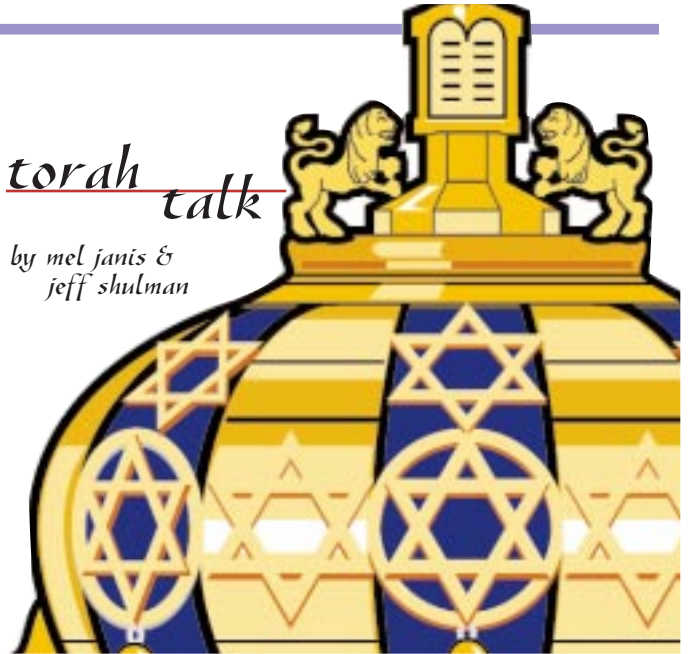
It happened sometime later that God put Abraham to the test . . . *Take your son, God said, your only child, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There, you shall offer him as a burnt offering . . .* When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him; Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on the top of the wood. That knot, which Abraham tied around Isaac's wrists, is the key. So much energy was encased in that knot that we still feel it today.

The ceremony of putting on tefillin is an excellent reminder of the spiritual significance of knots. The Shema commands us to bind the words of the Torah to ourselves. It is with the various combinations of wrapping and tying the leather strap of the tefillin that we become aware of traditions and God's presence.

The Torah commands us to wear fringes as a reminder of the mitzvot. Wearing a tallis surrounds us with symbolic and

torah talk

*by mel janis &
jeff shulman*



religiously significant knots. What do our fingers stay busy with when we are wearing a tallis? The knots at the ends!

Another high point in the Torah is when Jacob wrestles with an angel. It is after this wrestling match, which Jacob wins, that he is renamed Israel. The imagery of this wrestling match can be compared with the creation of a knot between mankind and God. We are Israel. We are intertwined in an intense and dynamic interconnection with our Creator.

How about the word *mitzvah*? It is about as essential a word as there could be in Judaism. A mitzvah is a commandment. In a deeper sense, the word mitzvah can be said to come from the word *tzavah* which means "to bind." The mitzvot are that which establishes our relationship to God, thus binding us to our Creator. Like Abraham and Isaac we must also bind our teaching to our children! It's all about the knot.

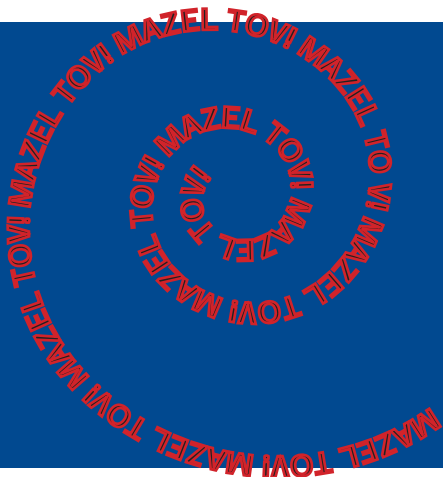
On a lighter note, there is the story related to us by Elaine Gottesman. "The man took his tallis to the dry cleaner. When he arrived to pick it up, the bill was twice what he expected. "I'm sorry that the bill is so much," said the shop owner, "but it took me hours to untie all those knots."

Mazel tov!

Debi Chesler was installed as president of AEJE (Association for Early Jewish Education).

Daryn Packyk was appointed to the State Bar Committee on Administration and Justice.

Leslie Friedman who received the Alan J. Kassin Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement at the 27th Annual Awards Dinner of the Jewish Communal Professionals of Southern California. Leslie is the Director of the SOVA Community Food & Resources Program of Jewish Family Service of LA.



Brotherhood...Men's Club...Men of Reform Judaism

This is not going to be the standard "what we are doing this month" type article, but hopefully the first in a regular series of articles on the importance of the Jewish American male.

I have just returned from an intensive four days in Memphis, Tenn., with the "old" NFTB, the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, which has just been transformed to the "new" MRJ, or the Men of Reform Judaism. This was not just a name change, but also a philosophical change in what truly is the role of the American Jewish male.

A little history which I will go into in future articles indicated that the male is disappearing from the Jewish scene. It's happening at an alarming rate, to the detriment to our religion and our culture.

What needs to be determined is what truly is the role of the American Jewish male, and what impact does he play in our society and his family.

Men are getting lost in the system and are lacking interest in involvement in the synagogue, whether it be leadership positions in the temple, in Rabbinic and Cantorial schools or just attending events. For the last few years, Reform Rabbinic schools have been running 75 percent women, Cantorial Schools 90 percent and Youth Group events 70 percent women.

Most men have families. There has been a disconnect in the kids' "role model" connected with the temple. Historically, the mom and dad have been involved in the temple, and the kids see the example set by the parents and continue to be involved. That is not happening. We need to be good Jewish role models for our kids. What are we teaching our kids when the dads stay away?

Just as we have changed the "culture" of TAS, with kids going through Confirmation class, we, too, must change the culture of the Jewish male dropout.

We are going to be implementing some new and exciting programs for "Men only," and some of these programs are going to include young Jewish males also. Don't worry, our standard programs will continue to be scheduled, but the additional new programming will enhance the male experience. What are some of the new programs? Scheduled for March will be a Male Seder, a father/grandfather/uncle and child campout, and a program which will be started sometime in September, an all-day retreat for our adult male and teenage boys (9th and 11th grade). Be on the lookout for these exciting programs.

On Sunday, July 8, at 8:30 a.m., we will be hosting our annual family softball game at Northridge Park, where all are invited to attend, for bagels and lox and a fun pickup game of softball.

Men's Club is open to men of all ages. Not just the AKs but also those with young families, and everything in-between. This is an opportunity for men to learn from each other, make some good business contacts, and just have a good time. If any of you wives are reading this, send your "man" to us. We think he will get a lot out of being part of something good.

I will discuss in future articles what is happening nationally to "change" the culture, and what we are proposing in making changes in our own Men's Club.

Not on the e-mail update list? E-mail Brian Hatkoff at bhatkoff@aol.com and get added. Have comments or questions? Same e-mail address, or call 818-701-7789.

You're Invited: **Biennial**
2007

DESTINATION: SAN DIEGO

Join thousands of Reform Jews this December in sunny San Diego for the 2007 Union for Reform Judaism General Assembly and Biennial Convention. Mark December 12-16 on your calendar and see for yourself what the excitement is all about! Learn and pray with leaders of congregations from across North America as you grow as a Reform Jew. Do not miss this exciting opportunity. For more details visit www.urj.org/biennial.



RABBI LUTZ

Continued from page 1

and humbled to stand in that line of tradition. I am thankful for the wisdom and guidance I have received, and especially appreciative that Rabbi Brown will continue to offer his Torah to us all.

Second, our tradition teaches that each of us stood at Sinai, those born and those of future generations, each were present at that moment. Having heard God's Voice at Sinai we exclaimed, "*kol asher diber Adonai, na'aseh v'nishmah.*" "All that God has said we will do and we will obey." For me, the operative word in this declaration is "we." "We," all of us, stood at Sinai. "We" declared our acceptance of Torah. Unlike the ethic of our contemporary society, where "I" is what it's all about, "We" is the operative word in Jewish life. One can not be Jewish in isolation. Family, community, is the primary unit of Jewish life. That is why one becomes bar/bat mitzvah in front of the community, why one must have a minyan to pray, why we join together at a shiva house, why we say on Yom Kippur, "For the sins WE have sinned." It is why God was experienced in the wilderness at the Tent of Meeting, where the people gathered together. God exists in relationship – that is, in community.

In our own contemporary journey through the wilderness this is our tent of meeting. It is here, at TAS, that we celebrate and mourn. It is here that we agree and disagree. It is here that we ultimately reach out in love and support to the Godly in each other. It is here, at our Tent of Meeting, that we animate words of Torah and experience God's presence in our lives. It is here, in our passion and commitment, that we become a *kehillah kedoshah*, a sacred community.

At Sinai we were offered Torah and encouraged to embrace it – to embrace the possibilities it offers to guide us through the wilderness and lead us to a Promised Land. Similarly, I hope that we will embrace the possibilities as we continue together on our sacred journey. We learn from our tradition that the successful building of the Tent of Meeting depended upon the individual gifts and talents of each member of the community. This evening you have heard about some amazing programs that happened over this past year and that are planned for the coming year: Julie Silver, Shabbat Alive with Rick Recht, The Evening of the Art with Dan Nichols, Washington D.C., Confirmation, Mitzvah Day, Jewish World Watch, Sova, Synaplex, Synagogue 3000, TAIrael 2008, and so much more. Births and deaths, b'nai mitzvah, weddings – Without the individual gifts and talents of so many, none of this would be possible. Without the dedication and talents of so many members of this family, there would be no place for our children or for ourselves to learn what it means to be a Jew; growing towards that image of God implanted within each of our souls.

We would be left to wander the wilderness of modern American life alone.

As community, bound together by their commitment to God and Torah, the Israelites were able to survive their sojourn in the desert. Certainly, many less would have survived had they journeyed alone. They needed each other for support and sustenance. So do we.

It is such a blessing and source of comfort to be part of a community that reaches out in warm embrace. And so, I look forward with eagerness and great anticipation to continuing our journey together, embracing the possibilities of Torah, embracing the possibilities of our Tent of Meeting, Temple Ahavat Shalom.

E-MAILS, WE GET E-MAILS



You may recall stories of last summer's Israel tour's experiences in the North of Israel at the beginning of the war. It was an experience that none of us will forget – certainly one that has only strengthened our connections to Israel. As we watched the devastation wreaked on Northern Israel, we all searched for ways to offer our support. In the religious school it was determined to dedicate all tzedakah collected over the first half of the year to an organization working to support families in Northern Israel.

Just recently that check, representing over \$800 of quarters, dimes and nickels donated by our children, was received by the Keshet Israel Relief Fund. Below is the e-mail I received in response:

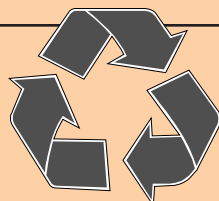
Dear Barry and TAS Teaching Staff,

On behalf of the Keshet Israel Relief Fund, I want to thank your religious school classes for the generous donations to the people of Israel. It means a great deal to know that the donation you made came from your tzedakah money – and it surely will make a difference here to the people who benefit from your generosity! Please know that every penny, nickel, dime and quarter counts towards making this world a better place. Thank you for your generosity, your care and your love.

*L'shalom,
Debra Sagan Massey, RJE
Director of Marketing*

*Keshet: The Center for Educational Tourism in Israel
877-481-8065
debra@keshetisrael.co.il*

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is printed on
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Candid camera

Behind-the-scenes glimpses before Confirmation



Photos by Al Lapidus

Focus on Youth & Education

The school year in review

Once again the school year has totally flown by. We have had a great year at school. It is both an honor and a pleasure for the teachers and for me to work with all the wonderful children and families here at our school. We have been able to watch your children grow and mature. We all look forward to watching this process continue with the children that will be in our program next year. As for the graduating class of 2007, we look forward to watching them grow as they enter our religious school and continue their Jewish education.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our teachers for the loving and creative job that they do. I want to thank our clergy, Rabbi Lutz, Rabbi Brown and Cantor Linsky, for their support and participation.

I especially want to thank Marilyn Burman, our ECEC Parent Committee Chair, and the members of her Executive Committee, Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik, Nancy Kaplan, Bonnie Lallouz and Laurie Patterson, for their hard work and support of our program. All of you except Shawna will be moving on, and you will be missed. I am happy to report that Shawna will be continuing on for one more year. I look forward to working next year with our new Chair, Debilyn Kinzler, and her new Board. Many thanks to all the parents who did various jobs over the course of the year. You all help to make this school the special place that it is. Please know how much we appreciate what you do.

A continuing thank you to our Men's Club and Sisterhood. Our Sisterhood is so generous with us. They are always supplying us with candles for our Shabbat boxes and with holiday treats for the children. The Men's Club, through its generous grant, will be purchasing picnic tables with attached benches so our children can enjoy eating and doing art outdoors. We are indeed a Temple community that looks out for each other.

This is a big year in the Chesler home. We have two wonderful simchot coming up, the marriage of our older son, Zachary to Arielle Goldberg and the Bar Mitzvah of our youngest child, Elijah.

Andy and I feel blessed to be a part of the TAS family and to share our happiness with this community.

May TAS go from strength to strength.

*B'shalom,
Debi Chesler, ECEC Director*

GENEROUS GIFTS

Alumni Outreach Fund

Barry and Wendy Krowne, to Debbie and Scott Weiss & family, in honor of Jason's graduation.

Barry and Wendy Krowne, to Debbie and Scott Weiss & family, in honor of Lyndsey's graduation.

Barry and Wendy Krowne, to Debbie and Scott Weiss & family, in honor of Debbie's great first year as chair of Alumni!

Barry and Wendy Krowne, to Glenn and Lisa Kantor & family, in memory of Glenn's dad. We are so sorry for your loss and we pray that his memory and all the memories you shared with him will be a blessing to you all.

Mazel Tov to our Havurah High School graduates. We are so proud of you all! Corey Castellaw, Hillary Epstein, Josh Hoffman, Jason Leibovitch, Jeremy Lutz, Julia Recht and Brittany Spindel. With love, the Recht Family.

David and Mindy Free, in honor of Brian, Andy and Alex Free.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Allan and Judy Gerber, in loving memory of Charles Deiber, our beloved father and darling grandfather.

Rick, Alaine and Karen Seidman, to Cantor Linsky. Thank you for officiating at Daniel's unveiling.

Dennis and Amy Schneider, in honor of Robin Gore's election as Sisterhood President.

Early Childhood Fund

Debi Chesler to Glenn Kantor, in memory of your father, Gerald Kantor.

Andy and Barry Mann, to Lila and Sherm Klein, in honor of your new granddaughter.

Andy and Barry Mann, to Shelley and Ben Pogorelsky, in honor of your two new grandsons, Miles and Noah.

Education Director's Discretionary Fund

Susan Cohen and family, to Rabbi Lutz, in appreciation of the beautiful memorial service for my husband, David.

Mike Alonzo.

William L. Olson, Inc.

J.A. and D.A. Monteleone.

David B. Michels.

Barry and Wendy Krowne.

ToroAire, Inc.

Marc B. Herman.

Sheldon and Lila Snow, in honor of the Confirmation Class of 2007.

The Recht Family, in honor of Kelsey Edenzon being confirmed. We are so proud of you. Mazel Tov.

The Recht Family, in honor of Sarah Leibovitch being confirmed. Mazel Tov.

Shery and Ira Kaplan, in memory of Glenn Kantor's father.

Sunny Rabenstock, in appreciation of the kindness of Rabbi Lutz.

Dennis and Amy Schneider, in honor of Arlene Schachter's 75th Birthday.

Dennis and Amy Schneider, in honor of Rabbi Lutz's promotion to Senior Rabbi.

General Fund

Marsha, Jerry, Sharzad, Richard, Andrea and Brian Scheff, in loving memory of Stella Jacobs, beloved mother and grandmother.

Marsha, Jerry, Sharzad, Richard, Andrea and Brian Scheff, in loving memory of Jack Scheff, beloved father and grandfather.

Jerome and Marsha Scheff & family to Hedy and Elliot Ir & family, on the passing of your dear mother and grandmother, Ida Agai. May her memory always be a blessing.

Marsha and Jerry Scheff & family – Mazel Tov to our very dear friends, Sonia and Lew Smith, on the marriage of their son Brian to Elizabeth.

Marsha and Jerry Scheff & family – Mazel Tov to our new Sisterhood President, Robin Gore. We know you and your new board will do an amazing job.

Jeffrey Shore to Paul Issler, in memory of your father.

Sue Miller to Glenn Kantor and family, in memory of your father, Gerald Kantor.

Carol and Sandy Stern to Jackie Kantor, in memory of Jerry Kantor.

Carol and Sandy Stern to the Glenn Kantor Family, in memory of Jerry Kantor.

Mitzvah Network Fund

Susan Cohen, in honor of Sharon Janis.

Susan Cohen, in honor of Anita Hoch.

Phyllis and Hal Bass, with best wishes to Sharon and Mel Janis on their special anniversary.

Phyllis and Hal Bass, in honor of Jonathan Trop's confirmation.

Shirlee Kline, wishing Sharon and Mel Janis a happy anniversary.


Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Mitchell Cohen, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of his daughter, Liberty Cohen.

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Please leave a copy of your article in the MENORAH box in the Temple office, or fax it to (818) 832-0076 or e-mail fkrimston@hillsidememorial.org



GENEROUS GIFTS

Religious & Hebrew School Fund

Barry Lutz, in honor of David Shaw. Thanks for your generous support of TAS High and other Temple programs.

Ronna & Lew Edgers Memorial Israel Programs

The Alban Family to Caryn and Mike Burkow, in memory of Mildred Mitnick.

Sylvia Alster Memorial Fund

Samuel Alster and Florence Adler, in honor of Kira Weinberg's graduation from Granada Hills High School and acceptance to U.C. Berkeley.
Andy and Barry Mann to Sam Alster, wishing you good health.

Vi & David Lieber Memorial Music Fund

Fran and Monte Krimston, to Hal Korduner. Mazel Tov on your birthday.
Fran and Monte Krimston, to Alan Spear. Mazel Tov on your 70th. We send you our best wishes and love.
Fran and Monte Krimston, to Herb and Linda White. Mazel Tov on Jake's Bar Mitzvah. We are quelling with you.

Youth Programs Fund

Cathy and Jerry Meyers, in memory of Corinne (Corky) Milman, mother of Bob Milman.
Natalie Berkowitz, in memory of Glenn Kantor's father.

Yahrzeits

Susan Cohen, in memory of Sally Arrico.
Sherry and Ira Kaplan, in memory of Irv Bronson.
Anita Hoch, in memory of Martha Chaifetz.
Kenneth and Karin Croft, in memory of Evelyn Croft.
Karen and Gordon Silverstein, in memory of Paul Dienstag.
Hildie Gold, in memory of Mervin Gold.
Art and Deborah Heisman, in memory of Mildred Heisman.
Neal and Arlene Hoffer, in memory of Gussie Hoffer.
Sherry and Ira Kaplan, in memory of Harry Kaplan.
Sherry and Ira Kaplan, in memory of Helen Kaplan.
Barbara Kessler, in memory of Marvin Kessler.
Timmie and Meyer Shapiro, in memory of Irving Koller.
Len and Judy Soloff, in memory of Betty Leventhal.
Art and Deborah Heisman, in memory of Clara Mazure.
Art and Deborah Heisman, in memory of Samuel Mazure.
Sandra and Richard Erkus, in memory of Bernard Miller.
Dan and Tania Nathan, in memory of Elias Nathan.
The Free Family, in memory of Hyman Plutsky.
Bernice Ponaman, in memory of Al Ponaman.
Sue Miller and Daryn Pakcyk, in memory of Eva Postal.

Sylvia LeVine, in memory of Sheldon Raab.
Hilda and Terry Root, in loving memory of Harry Root. You are with us always in our thoughts and hearts.
Sue Miller and Daryn Pakcyk, in memory of Harry Root.
Bob and Janice Ingram, in memory of Chuck Salisbury.
The Schwartz Family, in memory of Leon Schwartz.
Melissa and Alan Kassan, in memory of Daniel Seidman.
Rick and Alaine Seidman, in memory of Daniel Seidman.
Beverly and Cary Shore, in memory of Ann Sepkowitz.
Beverly and Cary Shore, in memory of Irvin Sepkowitz.
Beverly and Cary Shore, in memory of Joe Sepkowitz.
Marshall M. Silverman, in memory of Herman B. Silverman.
Karen and Gordon Silverstein, in memory of Rosalie Silverstein.
Philip and Rochelle Trop, in memory of Seymour Student.
Ellen and Roger Pollack & family, in memory of Sidney Telando.
Philip and Rochelle Trop, in memory of Herman Trop.
Howard, Laraine, Gena and Lara Miller, in memory of Uncle Gordy Tilsen.
Herbert Weissman, in memory of Anna Weissman.
Kenneth and Karin Croft, in memory of Barbara Zechman.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING AND TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

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- ◆ Provide for your family's needs.
- ◆ Make gifts to charities and others.
- ◆ Lower your taxes.
- ◆ Review your property arrangements (and its passage to future heirs).

REMEMBER TAS IN YOUR WILL.

CONDOLENCES

The Rabbis, Cantor and congregation wish to express their heartfelt condolences to:

- Bob Milman and family on the death of his mother, Corinne Milman.
- Glenn Kantor and family on the death of his father, Gerald Kantor.
- Karen Reff and family on the death of her aunt, Jeannette Schwartz.
- Myrna Miller and family on the death of her cousin, Rosalie Morgan.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 7 p.m. URJ: Introduction to Judaism	3 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	4 Temple Closed	5	6 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	7 5 p.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Speer
8	9 7 p.m. URJ: Introduction to Judaism	10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	11 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting	12	13 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	14 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Adrienne Naor
15	16 7 p.m. URJ: Introduction to Judaism	17 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	18 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting	19	20 7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Family Service	21 5 p.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Gerber
22	23 7 p.m. URJ: Introduction to Judaism	24 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	25 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting	26	27 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	28 5 p.m. Bat Mitzvah of Danielle Kent
29	30 7 p.m. URJ: Intro to Judaism	31 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	UPCOMING EVENTS: Wednesday, August 1 – 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting; Friday, August 3 – 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service; Saturday, August 4 – 10:30 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah of Benjamin and Harry Rosenmayer, 5 p.m. Bar Mitzvah of Michael Dubinsky			

JULY 2007

TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

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