



TEMPLE NER AMI
515 Temple Avenue
Camarillo, CA 93010

“The Temple on Temple Ave.”
is affiliated with the
Union for Reform Judaism

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A Taste of Kabbalah

by **Rabbi Michael Lotker**

I get asked lots of questions about Kabbalah. For example: Is it pronounced ka-bah-LAH or ka-BAH-lah? [Actually both are correct; the former is the Sephardic pronunciation and the latter Ashkenazi.] What are the essential teachings? How can I become more kabbalistic or spiritual? What is the Zohar? Are there Jewish meditative practices? What’s up with the red string bracelets, etc., etc.?

In response, I have engaged in my own study of Kabbalah, its teachings and its central texts. I have studied on my own, with small groups led by a scholar and at spiritual retreats. Although it is always a struggle

for me to give my left brain, scientific side a rest so that I may fully engage the spiritual, it is important to be aware of this central aspect to Judaism.

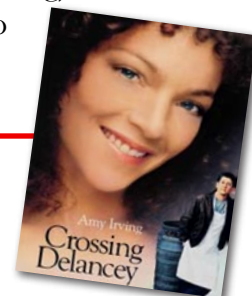
The study and practice of Kabbalah takes Judaism to a new dimension. I love the way that it sheds new light on familiar concepts and phrases from our tradition. For example, the *Shema* reads: “Here O Israel, *Adonai* Our God, *Adonai* is One!” This is generally understood to be a proclamation of monotheism, an affirmation that we worship one God and not many. The mystics, especially

the Hasidic mystics, take this a giant step further. They interpret the statement from the Torah as teaching that *Adonai* (the word Jews use for God’s name) is unity itself, that everything is contained within God and nothing is outside of God. This leads to comforting insights (all of nature is sacred and holy, from your child to your pet to the flower and even the rock in your garden) as well as troubling ones (can God be in the disease, the tragedy and the suffering?). Whatever your take on Kabbalah, you should know that it infuses Judaism from our *Erev Shabbat* song *L’cha Dodi* to the way the knots (*tzeit tzeit*) of the *tallit* are tied to making gifts in units of 18.

If you are curious to learn more about Kabbalah, I hope you will join me in my four session course, beginning February 7 and continuing on February 14, 28 and March 7 (these are Monday evenings), from 7-9PM at the Temple. The suggested donation is \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members with scholarships cheerfully granted. Please call the Temple office (805-388-3824) or send me an email (rabbi@templenerami.org) to let me know that you plan to attend.



Movie Night Saturday Jan. 22nd – 6:30 pm
Crossing Delancey - Amy Irving & Peter Riegert





Cheder Chappenings

by Julia Newman

Shalom Haverim,

I've been writing this column for umpty-ump years and it just occurred to me that maybe a lot of you folks don't understand

the column's name or even how to pronounce it! Years ago, when the school was just starting out—Lihi Gershater (founding Mom and Ner Ami's first Administrator) and I were talking about having a monthly Torah School article in the newsletter. In joking we came up with the name Cheder Chappenings—pronounced like the “ch” in “Chanukah” not the “ch” in Cheddar cheese.

Old-timers will understand the reference to “Cheder” meaning “room” in Hebrew—as the traditional elementary school which taught the basics of Judaism and the Hebrew language. Your grandparents and great-grandparents went to “Cheder.” They likely attended several days a week and had a man teacher. The studies were serious, without a lot of “frills.”

Times have changed and our “Cheder” is really “chappening!”

Here are some “Chai-lights” of the last few weeks: We've just returned from our Winter vacation and Torah School started in busy as ever.

The February 11th Family Shabbat will be led by the 4th and 5th Grade class. Teachers *Sharon Spielman* and *Gil Ramot* have been working with these bright, creative, energetic youngsters to prepare a very special program—including a class-created timeline and a fun, entertaining video. The focus of their program is on Prophets & Scriptures—moving beyond the Torah to what happened after Moses and Pharaoh. The title of their program is: **We're out of Egypt!! Now what??**

Please remember that these monthly services are designed for the entire Congregation not just the students and their families.

We celebrated Tu B'Shevat (New Year of the Trees) -by hiking in Sycamore Canyon. As we walked along we paused to say blessings for the beautiful trees, the scent of herbs, and the sight of the ocean and mountains. We continued our celebration during Torah School as we planted a garden at our new Temple.

We are a small school. A small “cheder.” It's true, sometimes I think I'd like to have more kids in the school. But when I look around, when I spend time with children and teens, with parents and teachers—I see that good things—even great things

come in small packages. We are able to give individualized attention to our families. We are able to meet their diverse needs. We are able to create meaningful programs and sometimes change them at a moment's notice as needs arise.

A recent, poignant example of this was the service we created to celebrate the life of *Debbie Friedman*,

renowned Jewish songwriter. We heard of Debbie's death on a Sunday afternoon and on Monday we turned our weekly T'filah into a small service which featured Debbie's songs, the melodies that our kids have been learning for years. We talked about the power of one individual to make significant changes and contributions to the world. We talked about her name “Deborah” and the Deborah of the Bible who was a prophet. We talked about prophets as communicators and Debbie Friedman's incredible gift to communicate through her music. We sang Debbie's *Mi Sheberach* as we prayed for the victims and survivors of the Tucson, Arizona tragedy.

This is just one aspect of our little “cheder.” We'll continue to tell you more of what's “chappening” in future columns.

B'shalom, Julia

Old-timers will understand the reference to “Cheder” meaning “room” in Hebrew—as the traditional elementary school which taught the basics of Judaism and the Hebrew language.



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Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm

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www.templenerami.org

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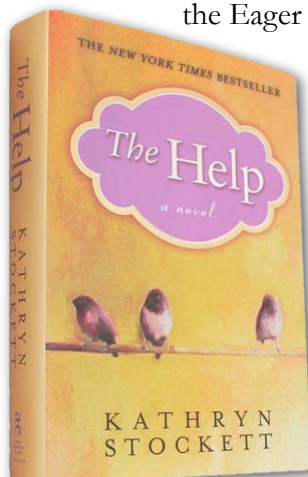
Daniel Lessler
Choir@templenerami.org

Choir Admin.

Sharon Spielman
ChoirAdmin@templenerami.org

Eager Readers Book Group Launches!

On Tuesday, January 11 five women gathered in the TNA library to form the Eager Readers Book Group. We will meet the **second Tuesday at 10:30 am** of every month in the Temple library to discuss a book chosen by one of the members. The next meeting will be on **February 8**.



Barbara Hoff will lead the discussion of **“The Help”** by **Kathryn Stockett**. The book is about a young white woman in the early 1960s in Mississippi who becomes interested in the plight of the black ladies’ maids that every family has working for them. She writes their stories about mistreatment, abuse and heartbreaks of working in white families’ homes, all just before the Civil Rights revolution. You are invited to read the book and join us. It is available from Amazon.com in paperback for \$10.11 or hard cover for \$13.53.

For further information please call Jean Shev at (805) 484-8106.

Friday Night Services

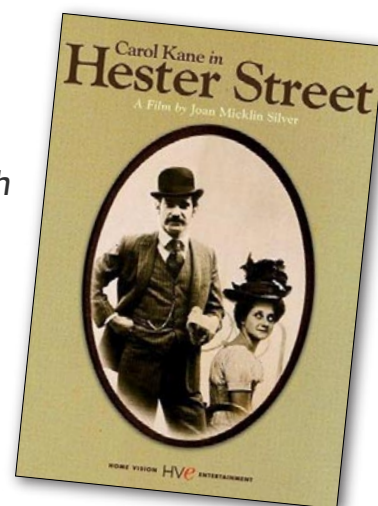
Many people in our community are no longer comfortable driving at night. However, they have expressed the desire to attend Friday night services. The Tikkun Olam Committee would like to organize volunteers to help those interested to feel more connected with Temple Ner Ami. There will be two lists:

1. DRIVERS (dates available and number of passengers they can bring to Temple).
2. PASSENGERS (dates desiring a ride and number of passengers).

These lists will be used for all Temple events. Please call Harriet Lit at (805) 484-9119 and leave your name, phone number, and the answers to 1 or 2.

MOVIE NIGHT - 6:30 pm, Feb 26th

Joan Micklin Silver's film stars Carol Kane as Gitl, a traditional Jewish woman who travels to America in the late 1800s to reunite with her husband (Stephen Keats), but instead is met with heartache when she discovers he's a changed man. Nominated for an Academy Award for her portrayal of a woman abandoned, Kane infuses Gitl with depth and humanity, making her struggles at once palpable and enlightening. Co-stars Doris Roberts and Mel Howard.



New Year's Eve Havurah! - by Cathy Kim Lieb

One of Temple Ner Ami's Havurahs celebrated the New Year's Eve together at the home of Ann and Dennis Sookikian. Justin Sookikian was home from college and chose to hang out with us and his younger brother Adam! Seven families ate appetizers, played with cats, watched movies, and played pool until it was time to ring in the new year! The Ericksons (Chip, Francine, and Sarah), the Goltzes (Amy and Lindsay), the Grossmanns (Allison, Mark, Nolan), the Harrises (Dan, Mary, and Hannah), the Krasteins (Greg, Mariana, Jason, and Karina) and the Liebs (Gary, Cathy, Justin, and Talia) also enjoyed meeting Ann's mother, Barbara Levin, visiting from New York.

Our Havurah is especially grateful to Ann and Dennis for opening up their home for a great family event.

We are looking forward to our next Havurah event, for couples, at the home of Allison and Mark Grossmann on January 22.



Dedicated Beth Shalom Lawn Section



Beth Shalom

Many years ago, the Jewish Community celebrated the dedication of *Beth Shalom*, a special area of 800 spaces set apart to honor Jewish traditions and remember those we've lost.

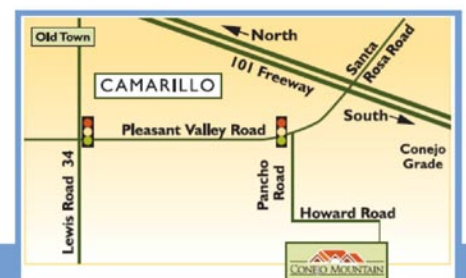
Today, *Beth Shalom* is nearing full capacity. There is still time to secure your prearrangement property before the opportunity is gone and before year end cost increases.



Trust our professional staff to handle all the details with respect and tradition.
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Why We are Jews - by Dan Harris, President

This week, Debbie Friedman, the incomparable, transformative singer/songwriter of so many songs sung and melodies hummed at synagogues and summer camps, died. She was 59 years old. Debbie's timeless tunes to our sacred texts touched countless Jewish lives, including my own.

Our own Torah School conducted a brief remembrance of Debbie's music on January 10th, where many adult congregants shared her music with our teachers and students. Sharing songs from this event reminded me of a book edited by Judea and Ruth Pearl about their son, Daniel, who in 2002 was targeted and murdered brutally because he was Jewish. In ***I Am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl*** (Jewish Lights Publishing), Debbie wrote the following:

Dear Daniel,

This is the first time I have had to think about the "why" of the words "I am a Jew." I have never defined myself or my work before.

I was born into a Jewish family, exposed to Jewish experiences and Jewish people.

The concept "I am a Jew" never crossed my mind until I was asked to reflect on your words.

I actually chose to be who I am. I felt that my life was incomplete. I was looking for connection. I was always drawn to the Jewish people and our history, and particularly to the values that were so easily translated and incorporated into life. It chose me back when at a point I began to interpret those values. Through songs and prayers I was able to reconstruct the same ideas and share them with others.

In your last moments, when you uttered the words "I am a Jew," you gave some people their first experience of acknowledging their Jewish selves. Those who never identified before were awakened by your strength and conviction.

In every interaction—be it a concert, or when I function as a sh'lichah tzibur, or at a healing service—in any of my relationships, no matter what I do, I am a Jew. I feel the presence of the Divine and a link to the past. I know there are many who have come before me who have made their mark.

They, like you, have left pieces of themselves so that we, the living, might incorporate them into our lives in order to reconstruct the places in our world that have been shattered.

I am a Jew because I know that it is not meant for me to do this work alone. I am engaged both with the Holy One and with all of those with whom I am involved.

I am a Jew because I know the world that you and I and many others like us envision is a world yet to be created by us.

I am a Jew because in spite of all the hatred and violence in this world, I believe we must hope and live together as if the world were sheltered beneath the wings of the Shekhinah. We must live as if we were enveloped in a world of love and compassion. I am a Jew because together we must pray for the day when all people will sit beneath the vine and fig tree—when none shall be afraid and when all the words that come forth shall be words that speak of the family of humanity.

The world you had envisioned is a world that we will continue to build through song and prayer, through action and acts of lovingkindness.

Often we dreamers are laughed at for our lofty thoughts. In truth it is love and peace that are two values that cannot be touched or defiled by anyone. They are held in one's heart and soul in the most sacred parts of us, and they soar to the highest heights in the heavens.

I had to write you because, though we never met, we were engaged in a shared dream of a world in which all human beings would be seen as precious—to be celebrated and loved.

This piece was not to have been a tribute to you, but it would have been hard to write about "I am a Jew" without making reference to you, since you were and will always be the one who made me think about why I am a Jew.

Your memory is a blessing.

We each are Jews. Like Debbie Friedman, we each must ask why we make that choice. Our Temple Ner Ami community provides the perfect, warm opportunity to help make answering that question meaningful and lasting. I encourage you to reach out to your fellow members, Rabbi Lotker, Student Rabbi Bock, Principal Julia Newman, and any of our professional staff members to help make that choice an easy one.

Tikkun Olam - "Whoever Saves a Life Saved the World Entire"

By Joan Stone, Tikkun Olam Committee Chair

We will be serving dinners at the Rescue Mission in Oxnard on Saturday evening, January 29. This is an ongoing service which Temple Ner Ami provides on 5th Saturdays of the months. We are there from about 4:30 p.m. until about 6:30 p.m. Two groups are served, one at 5 and the other at 6. We are all comfortable and safe during this time when there are plenty of cooks and their help around as well as our contact, Jonathan, the Community Services contact. If you are interested in helping us serve the two meals, please call me, Joan Stone, at my home phone: (805)987-740.

Our group is dedicated to what they do and are

willing to help new people learn what to do. We do not to talk with the people there for meals. We are there to set up tables if it is needed, and to deliver the plates to the seated people. There are hot tables from which the food is served so all you have to do is carry it to the set tables.


Please call me if you plan to be there, and if you need directions or a ride to get there. It is important that I know how many people are planning to be there-we could have too many coming - or too few

and it is important to know.


Thank you for all that all of you do.



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CRACKING THE CODE

by Student Rabbi Lisa Bock

Cracking the code is a phrase that sounds like it belongs in a spy novel. But this is a phrase that I think applies quite well to being a Jewish learner, as many of us are. Last month I shared with you some of the classes that I was working on, and much of the time I feel that the more I learn, the more I realize there is to go.

Hebrew, of course, is part of that code that we engage in each time we open our prayer book.

Reform Judaism has long been engaged in the question of how much Hebrew to include - in our prayer books, in our prayer services, and in our study. Why not just translate it all to English and be done with it? Great question, and it certainly would ensure that we would all understand what is going on, and even what page we are on. But there is a drawback to this approach.

Hebrew translated into English - whether Torah or prayers or other works, is more art, interpretation, explanation and commentary than simply translation. Take the Hebrew word אָוֹדָה avodah, for example. We often translate this as worship, but there is also, built into this, a sense of service, even servitude. The word אֲבָדִים avadim, means slaves. When we as a people were taken out of Egypt, we often think of this as being given our freedom (we often think of Exodus and freedom together), but our exodus and redemption from slavery was so that we could be free to serve God. Our exodus created the possibility to become servants of God, worshippers of God, so that we could become a holy people, a nation of priests.

Perhaps you might discuss this at the dinner table with your family or friends. What does this kind of freedom mean? What do we think of when we think of freedom? What is the difference?

Blessings,
Student Rabbi Lisa Bock



Clarice Shapiro,

Your friends have made generous donations to the Temple in your honor, and want to wish you a hearty **MAZEL TOV** on your 75th Birthday!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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Renee Stein



SACRED STORIES OF HOLY OBJECTS

“Shabbat Candlesticks” by Kaila Kaden

Her name was Masha and she came through Ellis Island in 1916. She left her family behind to live with her Aunt in Chicago. Years passed. She married in 1920 and moved to Los Angeles in the 1940's. Throughout her life, she treasured a humble set of Shabbat candlesticks; those very same candlesticks now reside in my curio cabinet. She was my grandmother, Mabel.

It thrills me when I think of all of the light those candlesticks have shed. Light during times of joy, sadness, stress; light even during mundane times. The light that most resonates for me though, is the soft light that made its way into my heart standing next to her in her kitchen as she turned plain afternoons into Shabbat.

Early on those days she would schlep me down to Fairfax to visit Freddie the butcher in order to pick out a chicken for dinner. With great care she showed me how to recognize the most tender bird from amongst the cages filled with cacophony and feathers. She'd direct Freddie with the point of her sturdy finger, and then we'd be off to pick up vegetables, wine and challah. Finally, we went back to Freddie to pick up our chicken, plucked and ready, wrapped in brown paper.

Once home, the meal preparation would begin. Neck and feet would go into a pot to become her rich elegant soup. Matzo meal would be rolled into balls, which would drop into the steaming soup before serving. “Always use seltzer to make your matzo balls,” she would tell me as my little hands rolled the sticky substance. “It’s my secret to making them light.” I’ve never forgotten that secret. She’d take out her blue speckled pan and in would go the chicken and vegetables to roast slowly. Then out came her beautiful linen tablecloth, china and

silver which she placed on the dining room table with great care. It felt like we were setting the table for royalty. She was always proud to show me her finery, telling me with a smile that one day I would do all of this with my grand children with this very same china and linen.

So the day would grow long and as the evening fell in that kitchen amidst the savory scents of soup and roasting chicken, she and I would cover our heads with her beautiful lace mantillas and bless the candles to welcome the Shabbat.

The candlesticks would sit on a tray on her kitchen table and her sturdy hands would gather the light from them as we said the blessing together. I remember how special it was to share all of this with her and how, with the strike of a match, her home was transformed from being just an apartment in the borscht belt of old Los Angeles to a real Palace, where a Queen would enter and royalty would reside for the next day. All that magic from one set of humble candlesticks, and one very special woman. When Grandma died and we went to clean out her apartment, there was only one thing of hers that I wanted - those candlesticks.

Now each Friday as I lovingly put them on my own table and invite the Shabbat Malka - the Sabbath Queen - into my home, I still feel my grandmother at my side. For that moment I am magically transported back to her warm and fragrant kitchen.

Each Friday night use your candlesticks to spread your own beautiful light into the world as you welcome the Shabbat Kallah. This is how the women of 100 generations of our people have done their part to make this world radiant with love and peace, for at least one day of the week. Your grandmothers would be proud; I know mine is. Her light still lingers in my kitchen each Friday Night.

WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR STORIES!

What were your traditions when you were young? Is there any special tradition that you observe presently that started in your parents' or grandparents' home? Do you have any Jewish memorabilia more than 30, 50, 70, 100 years old? Do you have anything Jewish given to you by your parents or grandparents? Sharing your special experiences enhances everyone who hears your story, and telling stories of those who have passed is a blessing and keeps our loved ones' memories alive. Please share your special stories with your community through this column.

Send your article to Kaila Kaden, at accounting@templenerami.org or call her in the temple office to tell your story, and she will write it up for you. Claim your 15 minutes of fame and tell your story in next month's Megillah. It's a *mitzvah!*

The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

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An anonymous donor made a generous donation

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Naomi Brill: Condolences to Mr. & Mrs. Irving Bergman on the death of their son Gary

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Muriel Rosenkranz

Renee Stein: In Honor of Clarice Shapiro's Birthday

Barbara Swartz: In Honor of Clarice Shapiro's Birthday



Spotlight on Volunteers! by Shari Brody

Have you ever considered how much music adds to the enjoyment of your life? Whether it is in the form of listening, playing, singing, conducting, humming, tapping, or whistling, almost all of us respond to music. Many people enjoy singing the prayers or listening to the melodies that are such an integral part of our services.

We have been very fortunate for the past years to have had a guitar accompanist for our Rabbi, Student Rabbi, and Cantor during our Friday night services. Alan Crane, a member of Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks, is that person. Alan is a self taught guitarist, who enjoys playing both 6 and 12 string guitars. In addition to playing at TAE, he has led or participated in the Brotherhood, Social Action and Mitzvah Day. A native Californian, Alan graduated from Grant High School and remembers the early days in the Valley. Alan is married to Lori and they have a son.



Since he is active at Temple Adat Elohim, we are very grateful for the time that Alan spends playing at some of our Friday night services. A big thank you, Alan, for sharing your time and musical talent at Temple Ner Ami as well!

If you attended the Dec. 3 Hanukkah Party and Friday night service, (and more than 80 people did) you enjoyed Paul Dwork's Magic Show, lighting the Hanukkoit, Shoshanah Steinberg our Bat Mitzvah participating in the service, delicious jelly donuts, AND the first appearance of the Temple Children's Choir under the direction of Sharon Spielman. Supported by the Torah School, Sharon created a lovely group of singers who we all enjoyed very much! The members

are: Samantha Shapiro, Sophie Elliot, Rena and Ayla Dvoretzky, Rachel, Brandon and Josh Pritz, Shoshi Steinberg, and Justin Lieb. The group was accompanied by Christi Kaplan, who we want to thank for supporting this new group. Cantor Karen, Julia and Avram offered their encouragement too.

We look forward to hearing this choir again. If your child is in Torah School, there are openings for new members. They all did a great job and really added to the festivities and the service.

Enjoy the delightful music of your life!

4 facts YOU need to know about stroke prevention

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- 4 out of 5 stroke victims have no apparent warning signs
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*Source: National Stroke Association





TODAH RABBAH Means Thank You!

Message from Naomi Brill, Oneg Chair

We started off the New Year with a BANG!
Thank you to the following people who helped start the New Year by sponsoring an Oneg. We appreciate your efforts in helping to make the Onegs a pleasurable and delicious event.

JANUARY 7, 2011:

SANDRA GOODWIN in honor of her daughter-in-law, Lida Goodwin.

GLORIA BRODIE in memory of her mother, Debora Brooks.

MURIEL ROSENKRANTZ in memory of her husband, Calman Rosenkrantz.

CLAIRE & BILL GOLDSTEIN in memory of their son, David.



JANUARY 14, 2011:

JULIA NEWMAN & SAUL LESSLER in memory of Julia's father, Norman Newman.

JANUARY 21, 2011:

SANDRA GOODWIN in memory of her grandmother, Sarah Copeland.

JANUARY 28, 2011:

SUSAN WEINSTEIN in memory of her mother, Selma Grossberg.

Please call me if you would like to honor a loved one this way or celebrate a Simcha (a happy occasion). I am delighted to explain the procedure to you. My phone number is (805) 388-8511.

“WHAT’S YOUR PLAN?”

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Sisterhood News

Dear Ladies,

We have been working on some fun, healthy & very interesting topics which will be sponsored by your Sisterhood for you to enjoy in the upcoming months.

First: On Tuesday, January 25, at 7 PM, Dr. Victoria Cobb will present an introductory class (see ad on the next page) in the basic movements & healing benefits of QiGong (pronounced Chee Gong). Victoria creates a comfortable atmosphere where you can participate and learn. People around the world practice QiGong to create a sense of well being, improved health & balance. Please wear comfortable, loose clothing. In China they always say, "Let's play QiGong"...You are invited to come play, and bring your friends! A donation of \$5.00 per person in cash or a check made out to TNA Sisterhood is requested. Healthy snacks will be provided.

Next: You will want to write Wednesday, February 23, 7 PM on your calendar as it is a first at Temple Ner Ami. Our topic is Sex & Chocolate...Illicit Sex in the Bible & Chocolate Tasting. The topic

will be presented by our own Rabbi Lotker and the Chocolate Tasting will be provided by the Sisterhood. You may bring a guest to this most interesting evening. Please RSVP by email to BothBrodys@aol.com or by phone 805-492-2129 by Feb. 22 so we can have plenty of chocolate for our tasting!

Third: Sunday, March 20 is the date of this year's Purim Carnival. It is always lots of fun for the families who attend. We are adding a new feature to the afternoon-carnival which is an opportunity for you to bring your antiques & collectibles in to be appraised by professional appraisers. Be thinking of what items or heirlooms you would love to know more information about or know the value of. There will be a modest charge for the appraisals and more details will follow.

Tee shirts will be available for purchase at the January meeting at the low price of \$10 for a short sleeve and \$12 for a long sleeve. If you haven't as yet paid this years dues, please bring your check book. Dues are only \$25.

We look forward to seeing you and please wear your Tee shirt! *-Shari Brody & Sonia Lotker*

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- ♥ Was ranked #1 in the senior care industry!

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The Library would like to thank all the Temple members who donated books this past year. The books were added to fill out certain classifications such as biography, kabbalah, Israel, Yiddish language, Jewish literature, etc.

As we wrote in the December issue of the Megillah, the books shelves are pretty tight, and I am starting to double shelve the books within some Classification Numbers. The Library does have some duplicate copies, but I feel that we should keep them. Some are out of print. Some are first editions. Some are signed by the author.



Library News

by Phyllis Mandel

The book shelves are bowing with the weight of the books, since the shelving is just particle board. It would be nice to be able to purchase book shelves to match the shelves that are across the room. They are sturdy and they also can accommodate seven shelves per case versus the five shelves we have in our present system.

Because I attend the class held by Rabbi Mike on Monday from 12:30-2:00, and Student Rabbi Lisa's class on Wednesday 12 :00 to 1:00, my hours at the Library will be on Monday, 10:00 - 3:00 and Wednesday 10:00 - 3:00.



Dr. Victoria Cobb

The Sisterhood Invites You to Enjoy QiGong With Dr. Victoria Cobb

Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 7PM

QiGong is pronounced Chee Gung. Qi means energy and QiGong is a powerful system of healing and energy medicine from China. Victoria will introduce you to the movements and you will understand how people all around the world "play" QiGong to create a sense of well being, improved health & balance.

Victoria creates a comfortable atmosphere where you can participate and learn. She teaches classes in QiGong and Tai Chi at the Spectrum Health Club in Thousand Oaks, & the Wellness Center in Westlake Village. Victoria has taught groups in some major cities in Europe and Asia. She has written a book entitled The Yin and Yang of It...a simple guide to playing QiGong.

Dr. Cobb is looking forward to meeting our group and suggests that you wear loose, comfortable clothing. In China they always say, "Let's play QiGong"...You are invited to come play and bring your friends! A donation of \$5.00 per person in cash Or a check made out to the Sisterhood, is suggested. Healthy snacks will be provided.

**Dr. Victoria Cobb, DD, LMT, DMQ
(805) 795-2372**

lightbodytherapy@hotmail.com - www.lightbodytherapy.com

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Rita D. Cooperman | Wednesday | February 2 | Seymour Greenberg | Friday | February 18 |
| Dr. James Kadin | Thursday | February 3 | Harriette Heiss | Friday | February 18 |
| Ari Spitzer | Saturday | February 5 | Gretchen D. Laskey | Saturday | February 19 |
| Heather Burstein | Sunday | February 6 | Ruth B. Nathan | Sunday | February 20 |
| Richard Erlich | Monday | February 7 | Fred Mesirov | Monday | February 21 |
| Allen Zatkan | Monday | February 7 | Jennifer Brown | Tuesday | February 22 |
| Naomi Brill | Wednesday | February 9 | Dr. Jack Milner | Wednesday | February 23 |
| Arla Crane | Wednesday | February 9 | Teri Milner | Wednesday | February 23 |
| Richard Levine | Thursday | February 10 | Seth Brandes | Thursday | February 24 |
| Alec Kurman | Friday | February 11 | Becky Kamola | Thursday | February 24 |
| Michael Posner | Sunday | February 13 | Sandra King | Saturday | February 26 |
| Cathye Clark | Monday | February 14 | Dr. Paul Treitman | Sunday | February 27 |
| Mrs. Joyce Benson | Thursday | February 17 | Suzie Franklin Defazio | Monday | February 28 |

** This table is based on Temple records. If your information is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office.*

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley & Ventura County (JGSCV)

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 13, 2011 1:30-3:30 pm

Temple Adat Elohim, 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

“Why Did Our Ancestors Leave a Nice Place Like The Pale?” Speaker: Hal Bookbinder

In 1880, fully 80 percent of our ancestors lived in Poland and Pale of Jewish Settlement in western Russia. We all know of the pogroms (organized violence) and mass exodus of our ancestors to points west over the next generation. This talk will provide background on the 120 years of the Pale from its formation at the turn of the 19th century to its dissolution during the First World War. It will provide some context to our ancestor's lives in the Pale, and of course, their decision to leave everything they had known to make new lives in the West.

** The Pale of Settlement was the term given to a region of Imperial Russia [it included much of present-day Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, Moldova, Ukraine, and parts of western Russia], in which permanent residency by Jews was allowed, and beyond which Jewish permanent residency was generally prohibited. It extended from the eastern pale, or demarcation line, to the western Russian border with the German Empire and Austria-Hungary. [Wikipedia.org]

Speaker: Hal Bookbinder has been researching eight family lines for over 27 years, identifying 4,000 relatives and tracing two of these lines into the mid-1700s. A founding member of JGSCV, and former president of JGSLA and IAJGS, he created and continues to edit the annual Jewish Genealogical Yearbook. In 2010, Hal received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award for his various contributions to Jewish Genealogy. Hal was recently elected the JewishGen Board of Governors. He has spoken at numerous conferences, synagogues and society meetings on topics from computing to geography to brick walls.

For more information contact: information@jgscv.org Jan Meisels Allen @ 818-889-6616

MEGILLAH

Advertisers Wanted!



The *MEGILLAH* is a 20 page monthly newsletter available for download at the temple web site, and is mailed eleven times per year to members of Temple Ner Ami and to other people interested in the activities and events at Camarillo's only Jewish Reform Temple. It is a must read for our subscribers. The *MEGILLAH* is unique because Temple members prefer to support businesses that support the Temple. So the response your ad generates is typically comparable to response in publications with many times our circulation of approximately 350 families.



There are a variety of ad sizes from business card size at \$20 a month to full pages at \$110. So there's an option to fit any advertising budget. The more frequently you advertise the lower the cost for each ad. Our low multi-issue rates make it affordable for your ad to become familiar to the congregation so that your ad delivers the response you are looking for.

Every issue advertisers can earn an additional 10% discount off published rates by prepaying for the year.

Interested? Contact our Administrator, Mark Malloy, for details at 805-388-3824.

July 2010-June 2011 Advertising Rates

| AD SIZE | DIMENSIONS (Tall-Wide) | 1-month | 3-months | 11-months |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Business Card | 2" x 3.75" | \$30 | \$25 | \$20 |
| Quarter Page | 5" x 4" | \$100 | \$75 | \$50 |
| Half Page | 5" x 7.75" | \$150 | \$110 | \$80 |
| Full Page | 10" x 7.75" | \$225 | \$150 | \$110 |

Advertising Materials Specifications:

Files may be submitted electronically via email to admin@templenerami.org, or on a CD. Preferred format is Adobe Acrobat PDF. Any industry standard bit-mapped format (TIFF, JPG, PNG) is acceptable as long as the resolution is at least 300 dpi. If an electronic format ad is not available, ad may be supplied in hard copy form, and will be scanned in at no extra charge.

Material Deadlines:

Space reservations must be made by the 10th of each month, with materials due by the 12th. Advertisers will have previous months' materials picked up unless new material is submitted by the deadline, or arrangements are made in advance.

Publication Date:

The *MEGILLAH* is mailed during the third week of every month except August, with the following month's cover date.

Rights of the Publisher:

All advertisements are subject to the approval of the editor, who shall have the right to reject or revise in whole or in part the copy furnished if any of the copy is not in the best interest of the *MEGILLAH*, or its readers.

Political copy must designate the person paying for the ad, and in the case of a committee or an organization, its name and the name of at least one officer.

Order a Temple Ner Ami logo necklace, earrings or tie tac. Show your TNA pride and have a beautiful showpiece!



The sale of TNA jewelry is a fundraiser for the Temple. For more information or to order, contact

Sarene Wallace via eMail at tresidents@templenerami.org.

14kt yellow gold (3/8")

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Sterling Sliver (1/2")

Pendant w/ 16" chain \$18, Stud earrings \$24, Tie Tac \$14



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------|
| Marc & Alison Grossmann | Wednesday | February 2 | 14th |
| Robert & Patricia Improtta | Tuesday | February 8 | 34th |
| Howard & Shari Brody | Thursday | February 10 | 20th |
| Kenneth J. & Gretchen D. Laskey | Thursday | February 10 | 51st |
| Mark & Kathleen Malloy | Saturday | February 12 | 34th |

** Listings based on Temple records. If your info is missing or in error, please call the office.*



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TEMPLE NER AMI

Yahrzeits - February 2010

Friday, February 4, 2011

Stuart Leventhal.....son of Sylvia Leventhal
Frieda Feinberg.....mother of Joan Taubman
Irv Merrin.....husband of Verna Merrin
Grace Barr-Nigrelli.....sister of Howard Barr
Morris Behar.....father of Regina Brutzkus
Doris Lauer.....mother of Myrna Zimmerman
Helen Traxler.....mother of Gary Traxler
David Brejensky.....father of Sol Brejensky
Rose Margolin..... aunt of Dalya Dektor
Salome Felsenthal.....grandmother of Sandi Banks
Bernard Zittell.....husband of Sylvia Fleishman
Samuel Keys.....father of Paul Keys
Paul Wolfsohn.....father of Marc Wolfsohn

Friday, February 11, 2011

Leo Blonder.....father of Sandi Banks
Sam Joshua Crane.....father of Jay Crane
Anna Weisz.....mother of Stefania Spiegel
Bessie Kadish.....grandmother of Barbara Michaels
Harry L. Klein.....father of Elva Levine
Michael Heller**.....father of Max Heller
Yale Lewine**.....husband of Ella Lewine, z"l
Rami Yoffe.....cousin of Judy Krieger
Emil Goldstein.....father of William Goldstein
Tim Lucas son-in-law of Elva Levine
Murray Biddelman.....father of Phyllis Slade

Friday, February 18, 2011

Irving Kaplan.....brother of Arnold Kaplan
Elias Shapiro.....father of Mike Shapiro
Carol Lotker**.....late wife of Rabbi Michael Lotker
Thomas Miller.....father of Tobie Treitman
Zoltan Borla.....father of Alex Borla
Lynne Oppen.....aunt of Arlene Cohen
Esther Goren.....mother of Sharon Goren
Shirley Sussman.....friend of Temple Ner Ami
Isadore Burt Brodie.....father-in-law of Gloria Brodie
Edward Marcus.....son of Charlotte Markus
Robert Alex Goodwin.....husband of Sandra Goodwin
Louise J. Freifield.....late wife of Max Freifield
Pearl Bailess**.....grandmother of Stacy Lowenschuss
Michael Castin.....brother of Rosalie Sherbrooke

Friday, February 25, 2011

Irene Einstein.....mother of Gudi Amerikaner
Ella M. Lewine**.....wife of Yale Lewine, z"l
Goldie Perlmutter.....mother of Barbara Perlmutter
Saul Rosenberg.....father of Barbara Rosenberg,
husband of Bernice Goldberg
Robert E. Shubb.....late husband of Bonnie Shubb
Lou Dektor**.....father of Dalya Dektor
Ruth Freedland.....aunt of Brian Yorke
Sam Scherer.....father of Bernard Scherer
Frances Simons.....mother of Marty Simons
Alex Baranoff.....father of Elsie Lichtbach
Benny Baranoff.....brother of Elsie Lichtbach
Sam Borovoy.....father of Verna Merrin
Morton Lit**.....husband of Harriet Lit
Jean Graeber.....mother of Arla Crane
Ed Sobel.....father of Claudia Yorke
David Blum.....husband of Deborah Blum

* Deceased Member

** Name on the Yolanda Cramer Memorial *Yahrzeit* Board

The Temple's *Yahrzeit* Board has spaces available for remembering loved ones who have passed away. The requested donation for memorial plaques on the *Yahrzeit* Board is \$350.00 per plaque.

ADULT EDUCATION – MONDAYS

On-Going Class

4:15-5:00 **Hebrew Language** – Learn your alef-bet and how to read simple Hebrew.

5:15-6:15 **Prayer** – Learn the liturgy and melodies.

Six Sessions

4:30-6:00 Holocaust Education: Taught by educator Stan (Avram) Kohls. He will share his extensive knowledge using lecture, documents and film. In addition to formal study of the Holocaust, Stan has spent extended periods of time living in Poland, East and West Germany, Hungary and Israel. The Holocaust claimed the lives of both of his grandmothers and many relatives. Stan has visited numerous concentration camps and other historical sites in Europe. He continues to research various aspects of the Holocaust through extensive reading and use of the Internet.

For info on Adult Education contact Julia Newman at 388-3824 or educator@templenerami.org

TORAH SCHOOL SESSIONS & EVENTS

JANUARY

- 23 **JOLT – Tu B’shevat Hike – Sycamore Cyn.
(Sunday)**
24 Regular session – Camp Kadimah – Tu B’Shevat
Junior Youth Group 6:15 -7:30
26 Regular session
28 **Tot Shabbat Dinner & Family Program (5:45–7:15)**
29 **Bat Mitzvah – Emily Henderson**
31 Regular session

FEBRUARY

- 2 Regular session
7 Regular session
9 Regular session
11 **Family Shabbat led by 4th & 5th Grades (Dinner)**
14 Regular session
16 Regular session
19 **Bat Mitzvah – Sophie Elliott**
21 **NO TORAH SCHOOL – President’s Day**
23 Regular session
25 **Tot Shabbat Dinner/Family Program (5:45 – 7:15)**
26 **B’nai Mitzvah Family Ed. (Sat. – 9:30 -12:30)**
28 Regular session
Junior Youth Group 6:15 -7:30.

MARCH

- 2 Regular session
7 Regular session
9 Regular session
11 **Family Shabbat Service led by 2nd & 3rd
Grade (Dinner)**
14 Regular session + Camp Kadimah – Purim
16 Regular session + Camp Kadimah - Purim
18 **Purim Shabbat**
20 **Purim Carnival**
21 Regular session
23 Regular session
25 **Tot Shabbat Dinner & Family
Program (5:45-7:15)**
29 **Bar Mitzvah – Nolan Grossmann**
28 Regular session
Junior Youth Group 6:15 – 7:30
30 Regular session

Teen Connection Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 2 NAUTY
9 Place of Our Own
16 NAUTY
23 Place of Our Own

MARCH

- 2 NAUTY
9 Place of Our Own
16 NAUTY
18 Purim Shabbat
20 Purim Carnival

TEMPLE NER AMI - February 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 30 12:30pm - Lunch N' Learn 4:15pm - Torah School @ | 31 | 1 Groundhog Day 12pm - Torah-Woman's 4:15pm - Torah School @ | 2 | 3 10am - ORT Board Meeting | 4 7:30pm - Shabbat Service | 5 9:30am - Torah Study @ |
| 6 5pm - Child Storytime @ | 7 12:30pm - Lunch N' Learn 4:15pm - Torah School @ 7pm - Intro to Kabbalah | 8 | 9 12pm - Torah-Woman's 4:15pm - Torah School @ 7pm - Board of Directors | 10 | 11 5:45pm - 4th & 5th Grade 7:30pm - Shabbat Service | 12 Lincoln's Birthday 9:30am - Torah Study @ |
| 13 7pm - Interfaith Forum | 14 Valentine's Day 12:30pm - City of Hope 12:30pm - Lunch N' Learn 4:15pm - Torah School @ 7pm - Intro to Kabbalah | 15 | 16 12pm - Torah-Woman's 4:15pm - Torah School @ | 17 | 18 7:30pm - Shabbat Service | 19 9:30am - Torah Study @ 10am - Sophie Elliott's Bat |
| 20 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents Day Washington's Birthday 12:30pm - Lunch N' Learn | 21 | 22 12pm - Torah-Woman's 4:15pm - Torah School @ 7pm - Sisterhood-Sex & | 23 | 24 12pm - ORT General | 25 5:45pm - Tot Shabbat 7:30pm - Shabbat Service | 26 9:30am - Family Education 9:30am - Torah Study @ 6:30pm - MOVIE NIGHT - |
| 27 9:30am - City of Hope 12:30pm - Lunch N' Learn 4:15pm - Torah School @ 7pm - Intro to Kabbalah | 28 | 1 12pm - Torah-Woman's 4:15pm - Torah School @ | 2 | 3 10am - ORT Board Meeting | 4 7:30pm - Shabbat Service | 5 9:30am - Torah Study @ |

Check www.TempleNerAmi.org for the latest Calendar Information!

January Outside Organizational Meetings



CITY OF HOPE - GENERAL MEETING
February 14th, 2011 - 12:30 pm
Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

CITY OF HOPE - BOARD MEETING
Monday February 28, 2011 - 9:30 AM
Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President



ORT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 3rd, 2011 - 10am
Annelies Regen - 805-445-9722

ORT General Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2011 - 11:30 am
Annelies Regen - 805-445-9722

HADASSAH GENERAL MEETING
Now meeting at "The Center for Spiritual Living"
Natalie Rosen - Co-President 805-484-3523
Judy Meisels - Co-President 805-482-9222

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Tues-Wed 7-8:15 pm,
Sat. 6:30-7:30 pm,
Sunday (Men only) 7-8 am



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If you would like to make a contribution, the following funds are available. Donations are graciously accepted. The Temple's appreciation of your donation will be published in the following month's issue of the **MEGILLAH**:

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The **MEGILLAH** is published monthly for members of TEMPLE NER AMI. Complimentary copies are available by contacting the Temple Office.

Suggested donation for non-members is \$36.00 per year. Make your check payable to Temple Ner Ami.

For information Call 805-388-3824, or eMail your request to:

admin@templenerami.org

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