



**TEMPLE NER AMI**

**MEGILLAH**

NISAN - IYAR 5771

ISSUE 42 - MAY 2011



*Celebrating our 1st Year  
at "The Temple on Temple Avenue"*



# The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

by Rabbi Michael Lotker

If you look at the last page of the *MEGILLAH*, you will see a number of Temple funds to which you can donate. One of them, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, is an important vehicle that I use frequently. A number of people have asked me to explain what this fund is and how it is used.

As the name implies, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is a source of funds that I use to accomplish the goals of our Temple. Even though it is called "Discretionary," it doesn't mean that I have complete freedom to spend these precious funds; they must be used for a valid charitable purpose in connection with the religious role of Temple Ner Ami.

In the years covered by my Quicken Program (2003 to present), more than \$60,000 have been donated to the fund. Uses of these funds have been extremely varied. A large fraction has been donated back to the Temple to meet specific needs. These include specific equipment items (furniture, computers, the sound system, software, etc.), services (guest

speakers, moving expenses, Israeli dancing instructors), and all kinds of odds and ends (plastic shofars for our kids on Rosh Hashanah, food for class dinners, scholarships so our students can attend a wide variety of programs, fees for our families to visit the Museum of Tolerance, etc.).

The funds are also used to help specific individuals (both Temple members and members of our community) in times of emergency. Through this Fund, you have helped feed families, provide



Israeli Dancers

nights of shelter, transportation funds and more to a wide variety of people during difficult times. The funds are also used to support local agencies such as the Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Services, and others who, in turn, help our community. I also use these funds to buy educational materials such as the pamphlets in the lobby and books for the library, etc.

To ensure that the funds are use properly, I keep receipts for all expenditures and report to the Temple President annually regarding the sources and uses of the funds. Your generosity gives me and the Temple the flexibility to respond to a wide variety of needs quickly and efficiently. I hope you'll continue to be so generous.



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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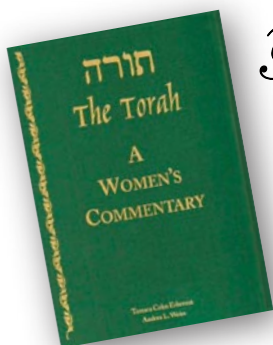
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light on the Torah from the  
women's perspective!



# How NPR & Direct TV Can Help Preserve Temple Ner Ami

by **Dan Harris, President**

National Public Radio subscriber stations are now conducting their seasonal

fundraising drives. My member station, KCLU, indicates that approximately 65% of its budget comes directly from listener support. Another 15% comes from area businesses that sponsor programming. The last 20% is derived from large private foundation donors (MacArthur, Doris Duke, etc.) and federal tax allocations.

NPR listeners enjoy an "All Access Pass" to every program broadcast, whether they donate \$0 per month, \$25 per month, or \$250 per month to support their local station. Each listener who donates is valued, because the more total donors, the greater the likelihood of obtaining area business sponsors to fill budget gaps. The greater the local support for KCLU and other member stations, the greater the likelihood of obtaining national private and public tax support. This last part is based on the reality that people try to "bet on the winning horse" and don't generally feel confident investing in any major enterprise on their own. In the end, just as no grass will grow unless it is watered, NPR stations fail when there are too many listeners and not enough vested partner members.

DirectTV, by contrast, is made available only those who pay for the service. For example, \$83.99 per month obtains the Premier Category service, which is sort of like getting "The Whole Megillah" (pun intended, with a nod of appreciation to Aaron Dvoretzky and grimace of shared pain to Sharon Speilman). As DirectTV itself says: "We're committed to bringing you the world's best television experience for the best possible price with no startup costs and no equipment to buy. With DirectTV, you'll enjoy innovative programming, technology and services you won't find anywhere else. This is our promise to you." Even if you had the television running 24 hours a day,

and packed the living room with all your family and neighbors, the cost is still \$83.99 per month.

But every investment (like in this case, consuming non-stop entertainment) comes at a price, since "As a new DirectTV customer, you agree to maintain DirectTV service for a minimum of 24 months. We're sure you'll love DirectTV so much that you won't ever want to switch." This last bit - despite the happy, hopeful language - is what mortgage bankers call a "Prepayment Penalty." It's designed to and actually punishes consumers for changing their minds before the company makes its projected profit over a specific period of time.

These two well-known business models may offer Temple Ner Ami guidance moving forward. Historically, 65-70% of Temple Ner Ami's annual operating budget comes from membership dues. Unlike the NPR model, although we are grateful for and do receive some help from the Jewish Federation of Ventura County, we cannot count on shrinking tax dollars and major donations to fill remaining budget gaps. Unlike DirectTV model, we do not impose multi-year financial obligations on our members, nor is the "plug pulled" in the case of a monthly non-payment.

Our financial matters find root in the context of Jewish values, principles, ethics, and uniquely important tradition in Ventura County, and so historically, the Board of Directors has determined to foster multi-generational Judaism regardless of individual financial circumstance.

Unlike the for-profit business DirectTV, Temple Ner Ami's core purpose is not based on payment of financial dividends to its members, but is instead to worship God in accordance with Jewish tradition, to cultivate a love and understanding of our shared Jewish heritage, to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community, and to strengthen the bonds of loyalty with the Jewish People everywhere. Our congregation

has indicated its desire to promote Judaism in all aspects of life through public and private worship, religious education, and through social welfare activities and such other means as helps to convey the teachings of Judaism.

But Temple Ner Ami's non-profit status does not, and cannot, be translated to mean financially strapped and/or cash-flow challenged. To speak more plainly, reflect on how you personally would feel having to pull money from your savings account to pay for ongoing and important monthly expenses, as opposed to counting on incoming cash-flow to meet those needs (your paycheck or social security). Drawing on reserves is a predictable - although not cherished - event, and our reserves have simply not been adequate to meet all our monthly obligations, including membership in the Union for Reform Judaism and replenishing our reserved and non-reserved building funds.

Reasonably forecasted and consistently realized income streams form the core of any successful business enterprise, including ours. At present, the Board is contemplating structural changes to its dues, in an effort to provide for greater budget clarity, ease of administration, and regularity of income, with an eye to promoting and consistently implementing its core purpose.

I'd like your immediate confidential feed-back on altering the Temple's dues structure based on automatic monthly payments, similar to how we all typically pay for car and mortgage loans. I'd also like your immediate confidential feed-back on reducing our budgetary need for "event driven" fundraisers, so that moving forward, a greater percentage of our annual obligations are met by monthly membership dues based on the total number of member families who are blessed to call Temple Ner Ami home.

Please reach me directly to ask questions and discuss: (805) 504-5976.



# TODAH RABBAH - Means Thank You!

## Message from Naomi Brill, Oneg Chair

The word must have gotten out about how much fun it is to sponsor an Oneg because in April we had an unusually large number of sponsors. They were:

- **Arlene and Irving Bergman** in memory of their son, Gary Bergman.
- **Annelies Regen** in memory of her father, Ludwig Linz, and her husband, Rudi Regen.
- **Max and Josephine Freifield** in memory of Max's mother, Dora Freifeld.
- **Shari and Howard Brody** in memory of Shari's parents, Jake and Ruth Jacobson.
- **Ann Burke** in honor of her new grandson, Jamison Binger.
- **Sonia Lotker** in honor of her granddaughter, Kaylee Drucker.
- **Marlene Votion** in memory of her father, Arthur J. Goodman.
- **Sharon Green** in memory of her father, Jack Koenig.



These caring and devoted people deserve the thanks of all the members of our Temple for volunteering their time and contributions to make the Onegs a special event every Friday. Ladies and gentlemen, we appreciate your efforts and thank you again.

I invite all of you to join this select group of people by calling me or the office to volunteer to sponsor an Oneg. This is an easy and pleasant way to not only honor someone in your life but to help your Temple continue to be the hospitable and inviting place that it is.

NAOMI BRILL - Oneg Chair,  
388-8511.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday April 23rd

6:30pm

A documentary on television pioneer Gertrude Berg. She was the creator, principal writer, and star of "The Goldbergs," a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television's very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. Berg received the first Best Actress Emmy in history, and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry.



## EDITOR'S NOTE

This May issue of the MEGILLAH is the 11th issue I have created, and is the first to be printed by our new Canon color copier. It was supposed to arrive just in time to print the April issue. We delayed our production schedule a week hoping to get it time to print all those Purim Carnival pictures in color. When delivery was delayed, our dealer, Document Systems, graciously offered to print 375 color copies of the April issue for us on their own machine.

A special thanks to the Camarillo Church of Christ for agreeing to share the expense of leasing and operating the color copier, and for providing a place in their offices to put it.

I would also like to give thanks to our "Nice Jewish Girl" sales representative, Lauren Berkowitz, for going the extra mile for the Temple. Not only did we get a much better machine at a modest increase in our monthly lease payment, but we now own our 2-year old black & white copier, and have reduced our per copy service and supplies costs by more than 50%.

B'shalom,  
Mark Malloy  
MEGILLAH Editor



## Counting the Omer: On Our Way to Mt. Sinai & Receiving the Torah by Student Rabbi Lisa Bock

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In Leviticus, the third book of the Torah, it says, “You shall count... from the day that you brought the Omer as a wave offering” (23:15). The Omer was a measure of barley

that Jews brought as an offering to the Temple in Jerusalem on the second day of Passover. The Biblical injunction is to count the forty-nine days from the second day of Passover until the eve of Shavuot. Although we no longer bring barley to the Temple, these seven weeks are still known as the “the Omer,” a week of weeks, and the ritual of counting each night is known, not surprisingly, as “Counting the Omer.”

First we have Passover and then Shavuot - which always arrives fifty days later – these are holidays that are connected to one another, and the week of weeks in between is always the same amount of time. While Passover celebrates our *liberation* from Egypt, Shavuot celebrates our *receiving* the Torah at Sinai. In our counting the Omer, we symbolically mark the time between our liberation to our receiving the Torah. Receiving the Torah is a significant moment in Jewish life – it is the assumption of responsibility in the acceptance of Torah, the law, making a collective commitment to living an ethical, and moral life, a life of virtue, a life of Divine purpose. We recreate this in our passing the Torah from generation to generation to each of our children who become Bar and Bat Mitzvah on our bimah!

The Hebrew word for Egypt is *mitzrayim*, a word that can also be translated as “the narrow place”, from the word *tzar*, or “narrow”. In our lives today, *mitzrayim* can represent all forms of conformities and definitions that restrain, inhibit, or otherwise restrict our free movement and expression. In retelling the Exodus story on Passover, we are symbolically freed, or birthed from the “narrow straits” through the miracle of the parted waters of the Sea of Reeds, into freedom. Like babies and toddlers, we as a people, and as individuals, were not yet sufficiently mature to receive the Torah at Sinai. The period between Passover and Shavuot is an opportunity to us today, now, for our personal growth and character refinement. The Counting

of the Omer is more than just counting days. This is a yearly opportunity designed to grow and refine ourselves, built right into our tradition.

**Counting the Omer requires attention and intention.** Counting each of the days from Passover until Shavuot sounds simple, but it is not easy. It requires *attention and intention* – or a mindfulness – to remember to count each night. Like learning a new language, practicing an instrument, or starting an exercise routine, counting the Omer is demanding. However, just as these other disciplines reward us in both expected and unexpected ways, so too the counting for 49 days stimulates a sense of accomplishment, new awareness, and mindfulness.

If you look at your Jewish Calendar, you’ll see it has “Omer: ##” on each of the days beginning April 20<sup>th</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**For New Awareness.** From now through June 7<sup>th</sup>, consider taking some personal character trait, such as *patience, kindness, inner strength, love, courage, creativity, harmony, compassion, discipline, order, judgment, balance, clarity*, and so forth – take one trait and put your attention on that for a day, a few days, or even a week - write the trait you want to focus on – write it on a piece of paper and carry it with you - be aware of that quality in your life - make that trait part of your awareness as you go through each day. Reflect on areas you want to strengthen, and refine, and see how you can apply that each day. As you count the days up to Shavuot, notice that this opportunity to grow and refine ourselves is a part of our Jewish tradition.

### *Counting the Omer: The Blessing*

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Asher Kid’shanu B’mitzvotav, V’tzivanu Al S’firot HaOmer.

Blessed are You Adonai, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has made us holy through Your mitzvot, and has commanded us concerning counting the Omer.

Today is the \_\_\_\_ day of the Omer.

May your journey to Sinai and Shavuot be filled with growth, refinement and blessings!

**Student Rabbi Lisa Bock**



## Cheder Chappenings

by *Julia Newman*

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Shalom Haverim,

I hope you all had a wonderful Passover. The Torah School enjoyed a Spring vacation and now we're up and running—coming down the

homestretch to the end of the school year.

April's Family Shabbat service was lead by our small, but mighty 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class. Teacher, *Avram Kohls* and junior classroom assistant, *Abigail Harris* helped to prepare the young students. The service was conducted from our prayer book for young children (Gates of Prayer) and the program was a presentation about what the kids have been studying this year. Our students are: *Jacob Greenberg, Daria Lapidot-Boaz, Hayden Moch, and Ben Scheerger.*

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade class is the largest in Ner Ami's history. The students, along with their parents, grandparents, *Rabbi Mike, teachers Avram Kohls, Jeffrey Lee Steinberg and Saul Lessler* and *Julia Newman* visited the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. This annual program marks the conclusion to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Holocaust Education curriculum. Our visit is funded by a grant

from the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. 7<sup>th</sup> graders include: *Griffin D'Inca, Rena Dvoretzky, Sophie Elliott, Nolan Grossmann, Hannah Harris, Emily Henderson, Fallon Highfill, Brandon, Joshua and Rachel Pritz, Ariel Saleh, Daniel Siela, Adam Sookikian, Evan Spitzer, Shoshi Steinberg.*

### UPCOMING FUN DATES

**Sunday, May 15:**

**Family visit to Underwood Farms (see flyer)**

**Wednesday, May 25:**

**YEAR-END PARTY & TEACHER APPRECIATION  
(details available in the next couple of weeks)**

### OTHER FUN STUFF

**Kvell Kolumn (July Megillah)**

We'll be featuring your kids' accomplishments. You may write about academic honors, athletic awards, graduations, new jobs (college-kids), or just what makes your kid great!

I will need your entries by June 15<sup>th</sup>. You can start sending them at any time to Julia at:

[educator@templenerami.org](mailto:educator@templenerami.org)

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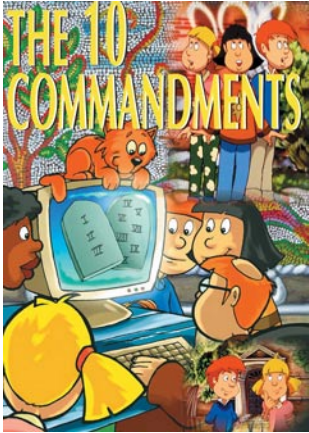
## Annual CSUCI Hillel Officer Installation at Temple Ner Ami



For the past four years, the Hillel at CSUCI has been funded by the Jewish Federation of Ventura County through the generosity of the Jewish community's donations to the annual campaign. We are proud of their accomplishments on behalf of the Jewish student body and Israel advocacy. We wish to thank the graduating seniors and especially graduating Hillel President Rina Koenka on a job well done as she heads off to medical school, and to incoming President Coey Sloane.

At this month's meeting here at the Temple on April 15<sup>th</sup>, next years Hillel officers were officially installed.

Shown on the bema with Rabbi Mike is Cheri Dekofsky of the Federation on the far left. She's next to Rina and surrounded by other students.



The Second and Third Grade classes have been studying the **Ten Commandments**. At a recent **Family Education** program the children and their parents (and a few older siblings) came up with their own commandments.

Enjoy! Obey!

- I Thou shalt listen to Mom and Dad
- II Thou shalt be truthful
- III Thou shalt respect privacy
- IV Thou shalt be gracious and courteous
- V Thou shalt honor the healthy snack
- VI Thou shalt exercise regularly
- VII Thou shalt think of community as a family
- VIII Thou shalt not waste
- IX Thou shalt not bully or tease (or be bossy)
- X Thou shalt not litter or waste

***These were all so good and thoughtful—but here's a few more that you're gonna love.***

- I Thou shalt eat what Mom and Dad make
- II Thou shalt brush your teeth
- III Thou shalt do chores without complaining
- IV Thou shalt get homework done
- V Thou shalt find the hamper and the toy bin
- VI Thou shalt remember the bedtime and keep it holy
- VII Thou shalt not talk or text when attention is needed
- VIII Thou shalt take a shower every day (with soap)
- IX Thou shalt not be violent, especially in the car

**And my all time favorite...**

- X Thou shalt love each other no matter what**

*B' Shalom, Julia*

## ***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](mailto: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*!

## ***Prayers & Praises***

Get well wishes go to **Allen Zatkin** for a speedy recovery from a hip replacement.

Congratulations to **Jennifer** and **Christopher Brown** on the birth of a big, healthy baby boy born on the 10th of March, weighing 9 lbs. 7 ounces. His name is **Andor Edward**.

Please pray for **Stacy Lowenschuss**. Her mother recently passed away unexpectedly.

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*Please eMail your "Prayers & Praises" info to [admin@templenerami.org](mailto:admin@templenerami.org), or call the temple office at 388-3824.*

## Tikkun Olam:

# תְּקוּן הָעוֹלָם



Thanks to everyone for their generous **food donations** to the Somis Pantry. This month our food barrel was filled to overflowing. It was a heart-warming sight to behold! For May, the food of the month is: **TUNA**. So, when you shop, please grab an extra can of tuna fish. We would also appreciate any other food items you would care to donate.

We have some new volunteers from the Temple helping at the Somis Food Pantry. Volunteers from Temple Ner Ami include: Clarice Shapiro, Loretta Reshes, Char Brandes, Amy Goltz, Lindsay and Alex Goltz.

Saturday night May 30th is our night to serve at Oxnard's Rescue Mission. Volunteers need to be there at 4:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering to do this important work, please contact Joan Stone.

**Don't forget our carpools to Temple.** If you need a ride or can drive someone else, please call me and I'll try to arrange a match.

Harriet Lit, 484-9119



## A Very Special Volunteer: Reva Kern

One of the special blessings of being here at the Temple on a regular basis is the opportunity to meet and work with some incredibly talented people. Reva Kern is just such a person. She is a regular attendee at Rabbi Lisa's "Torah Study: The Women's Perspective" class at noon on Wednesdays. Fortunately for the Temple, the bus schedule brings her to us 45 minutes early. So before class starts, she volunteers in the Temple office helping Kaila keep our member and vendor files in order, and doing other office related tasks as needed.

About nine months ago she decided she wanted to publish books of her original *Haiku* verses. She started by methodically learning the same desktop publishing program used to create the **MEGILLAH** in order to lay out the 2" by 2" pages. She then designed and created her own artwork to complement several of the verses. Each piece of art is signed with her "chop", an inscription of her name in Chinese. The hand-painted art done in Chinese brush painting was then inserted on a page opposite an identifying verse.

Each of the five books she will produce is held closed by a cleverly designed magnetic clasp, and is then bound with a translucent sleeve modestly inscribed with just the words "HAIKU" and "Reva Kern". These books are a collector's item lovingly created by a very special person!



### A Sample Verse:

*Comes the Dragonfly  
skimming across the small pond  
just a flash of blue.*





# Spotlight on Volunteers!

by Shari Brody

## Romance started at Ner Ami!

Imagine meeting a tall, handsome man over Challah! Well ladies, sometimes you have to go no further than your Temple to hook up with a nice Jewish man, which is the way that Naomi Brill met Max Heller! Naomi has created a special title for Max, he is her DCC, Dear Constant Companion. Attending and participating in Temple has always been important to Naomi as she believes in being counted as a Jew.



Naomi's family moved from Cincinnati to Los Angeles when she was a baby. She grew up here, graduated from Los Angeles

High School, attended U.C.L.A. for two years and then moved on to U.C. Berkeley from which she graduated. By profession, she was a legal secretary for about 25 years. Naomi was married in 1952 and became the mother of two daughters, Patrice and Carol. She has three grandchildren. She lived in Pacific Palisades with her husband Dick Brill, and was known as the "Pearl Nests of Pacific Palisades," because of the wonderful parties that they hosted. They moved to the Village in 1998 and after a 20 year marriage, Mr. Brill passed away in 2001.

Naomi volunteered for a two week tour of duty in the Israeli Army through the SAR-EL program. She has acted in several little theater groups and refers to herself as an unsuccessful ingenue. She devotes her time to helping others and spoiling her family. We know Naomi as our Sisterhood Corresponding Secretary and very important Oneg Chairperson. She is the woman who plans and organizes the Friday evening Onegs. Thanks to Naomi for many years of valued service & support of our Temple! Our Onegs are so nice because of her efforts.

## This Temple member knew Anne Frank!



Annelies Regen was raised in Aachen, Germany during the events prior to World War II. As a child, she recalls not being able to play with her best friend, swim in the public swimming area or go to the theater because she was Jewish. Annelies's mother was a friend of Anne Frank's

grandmother, so Annelies and her sister, Susie, were playmates of the slightly younger Ann. From Aachen, Annelies and her family were able to walk on forest trails which crossed the borders in to Holland and Belgium.

When Annelies was thirteen, she was sent to a boarding school in Belgium. Just before her sixteenth birthday, she was able to go to California, as there were fewer people waiting to come to the United States from Belgium than from Germany. She lived with her uncle and aunt in Los Angeles until her parents and sister could come a few years later and the family was reunited.

Annelies met Ruddy Regen and they were married in 1944. They enjoyed a 54 year marriage until his passing in 1997. She has a daughter, Nancy, who lives in Camarillo and two grand daughters.

Before moving to Camarillo in 1992, Annelies worked at several banks and after two robberies, she left banking. Her next position was as an Office Manager in a private office where she worked for thirteen years until she retired. She has volunteered at the Jewish Home for the Aging as well as the Woman's Care Cottage in North Hollywood. Annelies volunteers at our Temple on Fridays and has done so for the eleven months since our move. She has also been our Sisterhood Treasurer for years.

Annelies has had many interesting life experiences and is a charming and delightful woman to know! She plays Bridge, exercises and is Past President of ORT America where she had served eleven years as the group's President. Bravo, Annelies and many thanks for your many years of devotion and service to others!

# JUDAISM 101

*A Practical Judaism Class  
with Student Rabbi Lisa Bock*



**7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Wednesday evenings**

**May 4, 18, 25 & June 1st**

**Irv Dubin Library**

This class is a hands-on introduction to making sense of, and making connections between the Jewish Calendar, Torah, Jewish Texts, and Jewish Prayer. Open to all!

Please call the Temple office and let us know you will be attending - so that we may prepare materials for you.



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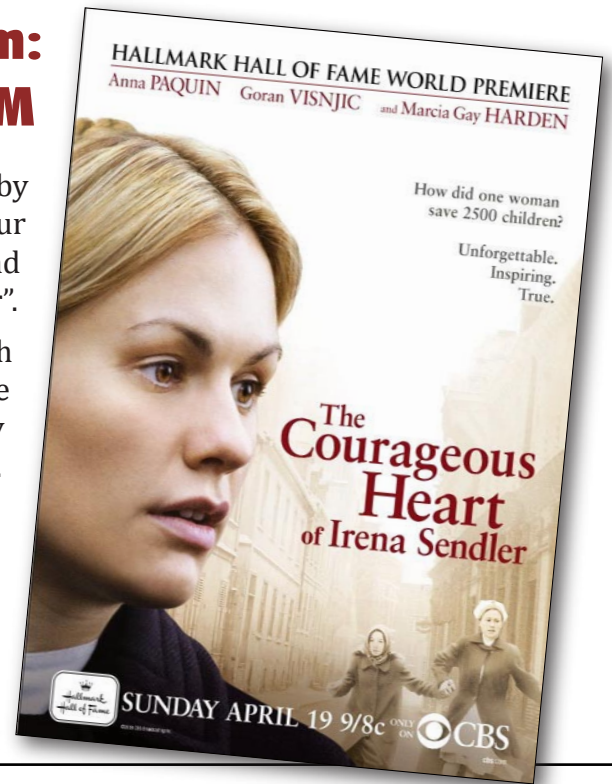
[Daniel@StrongFoundationTutoring.com](mailto:Daniel@StrongFoundationTutoring.com)

## Yom HaShoah Program: Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2-4 PM

This year's **Yom HaShoah Program** will be co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. In addition to our service and acknowledgement of survivors, we will see and discuss the film, "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler".

Irena Sendler was a social worker who was part of the Polish underground during World War II and was arrested by the Nazi's for saving the lives of nearly 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto.

Anna Paquin's performance as Irena earned her a Golden Globe nomination in 2010, and Marcia Gay Harden's performance as her mother also earned critical acclaim.



*Reminder:*



### TEMPLE NER AMI - HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Saturday, November 13, 2011

To be held at the "Boys & Girls Club" in Camarillo. We need vendors! If you know of anyone that might be interested please contact: Bobbe Jacobs at: [bobbejacobs@gmail.com](mailto:bobbejacobs@gmail.com) or call 805-389-4320

## \*"SISTERS IN DA' HOOD"\* News

Dear Sisters & Supporters,

Sisterhood sends a big thank you to our Temple members who participated in the Antique Appraisal afternoon held during the Purim Carnival rainstorm. Those who brought in their interesting and beautiful possessions were: Judi & Bill Slapin, Ann Burke, Claire & Bill Goldstein, Sharon Spielman & Aaron Dvoretzky, Dayla Dektor, Julia Newman, Bobbe & Dale Jacobs, and Shari & Howard Brody. Our antique appraiser, Stephen Pickett, did a very good job and became a new advertiser in the **MEGILLAH!**

A new tradition may be starting at the Temple, on Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 PM, when we have our first Mimona. A Mimona is a Moroccan custom which celebrates the end of Passover by serving

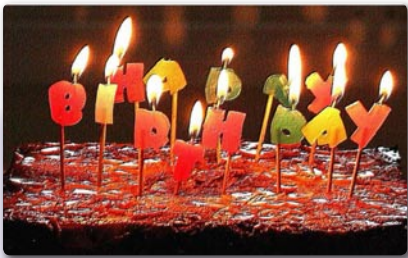


a large selection of sweets. For your entertainment, the Sisterhood is presenting a beautiful, exotic belly dancer, the amazing Natasha Senkovich. The cost is \$10.00 per person, and you won't want to miss this evening! You're invited to bring guests and your spouse is welcome. RSVP by calling Sonia at 818-497-2478, or the Temple at 805-388-3824.

Take out your dancing shoes, practice your favorite song and get ready to sign up for the Temple Talent Show which is planned for Saturday evening, June 11.

Our best wishes,

**Sonia Lotker & Shari Brody**  
Co-Presidents



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Sacks	Monday	May 2	Sharon Green	Saturday	May 21
Joel Singer	Monday	May 2	Karen Keys	Saturday	May 21
Moises Mercado	Tuesday	May 3	Verna Merrin	Saturday	May 21
Betty Stallman	Tuesday	May 3	Jules Posner	Saturday	May 21
Max Heller	Thursday	May 5	David Fischler	Sunday	May 22
Zelda Greentree	Friday	May 6	Tammie Kadin	Monday	May 23
Marsha Richardson	Saturday	May 7	Sheila Bachelis	Tuesday	May 24
Lisa Sadowsky	Saturday	May 7	Mike Shapiro	Wednesday	May 25
Julia Newman	Sunday	May 8	Sarah Brejensky	Thursday	May 26
Kurt Pritz	Sunday	May 8	Karin Greenberg	Thursday	May 26
Dr. Richard Brand	Monday	May 9	Isabel Blau	Friday	May 27
Amy Goltz	Wednesday	May 11	Libby Pierce	Friday	May 27
Shelley Heirshberg	Friday	May 13	Mary Harris	Saturday	May 28
Alex Borla	Monday	May 16	Nicole Sadowsky	Monday	May 30
Helen Gardner	Monday	May 16	Ruth Acker	Tuesday	May 31
Deborah Glasser	Tuesday	May 17	Francine Erickson	Tuesday	May 31
Mildred Seidler	Tuesday	May 17			

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

Dedicated Beth Shalom Lawn Section



## PERSONAL CHOICES

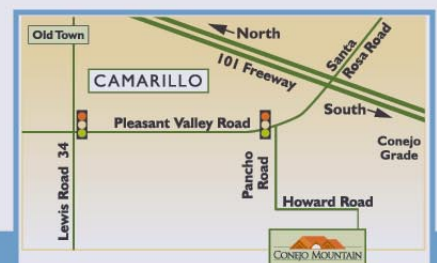
Expressed beforehand will relieve your loved ones from making difficult decisions at the time of need.



Trust our professional staff to handle all the details with respect and tradition.  
Alan Ducker, Advance Planning Specialist, direct: 805-258-3697



24 hrs. 805-482-1959  
2052 Howard Road  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
[www.conejomountain.com](http://www.conejomountain.com)



Visit our beautiful property, 3 miles South of the 101 freeway in Camarillo.



## Anniversary Dinner Dance

# June 5, 2011

## 4:00-8:00 P.M.

Temple Ner Ami - 515 Temple Avenue

**Adults \$18.00**

**Children \$9.00**

Come help the Temple celebrate its 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary at "The Temple Temple Avenue" with a catered dinner & Israeli dancing.

*Advanced reservations only.*

**Call Today: 388-3824**

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

**Stan & Karen Baratta** - Sunday, May 1, 17th Anniversary

**Steven Graff & Kim Honig** - Friday, May 6, 27th

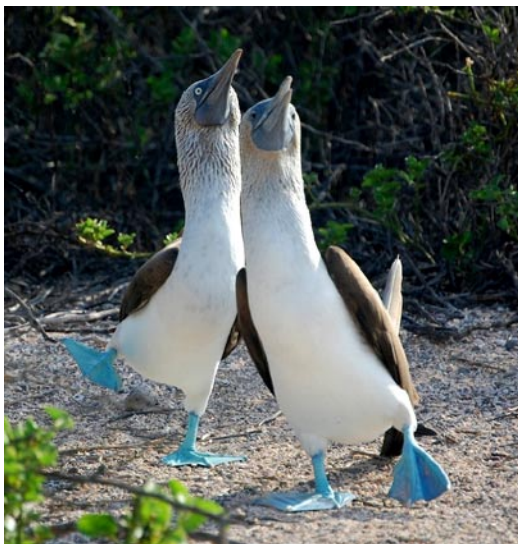
**Michael & Pamela Bogen** - Wednesday - May 11, 39th

**Jennifer & Christopher Brown** - Thursday, May 12, 6th

**Steve & Judy Sitko** - Tuesday, May 24, 30th

**Dennis Sookikian & Anne Levin-Sookikian** - Mon. May 30, 24th

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



# Camarillo

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

■ **On the senior page**

Margaret Nesbitt writes about education opportunities, and Betty Berry clears up confusion on Medicare coverage. **6B**

## Jewish community celebrates

All were welcome Tuesday night at Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo for the temple's annual community Seder. The Passover Seder is an ancient Jewish tradition celebrating the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

The term "Passover" refers to the Old Testament story of when the Angel of Death passed over the homes of the slaves during a plague that was killing all the firstborn children of Egypt.

The first night of Passover was Monday, which is usually celebrated with a family Seder. The second night is traditionally a community Seder.

Rabbi Mike Lotker read from a special prayer book called the Haggadah, which details the exodus of the slaves from Egypt.

After reading aloud and singing songs both traditional and original, everyone dined on traditional Passover fare of wine and matzah bread, an unleavened bread to symbolize how quickly the slaves had to flee Israel. There was no time for the bread to rise.

This year's Passover is especially poignant, he said, as the Jewish community watches many in the Middle East struggle for independence.

"All across the Middle East, our fellow Semites are striving to get what we have in the state of Israel ... which is freedom," he said.



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH A. GARCIA/THE STAR

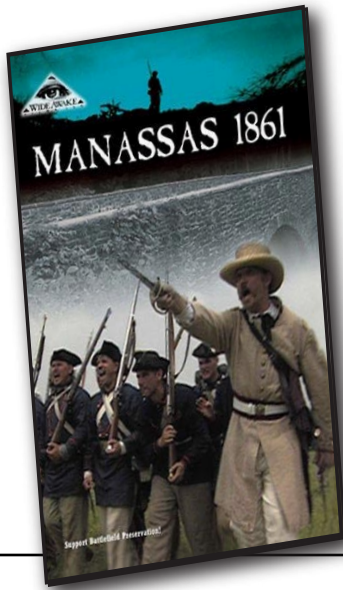
Rabbi Mike Lotker displays matzah to illustrate how quickly the Israelite slaves fled Egypt, for members of Temple Ner Ami during their community Seder dinner at Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo.



Noah Steinberg chants the four questions in Hebrew during the community Seder dinner.



Fran Yasney participates in reading a story of the liberation of the Israelites and how they got their freedom from Egypt during the Seder.



# MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY, MAY 28 - 6:30 PM

On Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> Dale and Bobbe Jacobs will be hosting a presentation of "Manassas 1861". This documentary, performed by Civil War Living Historians, tells the story of the first battle of the American Civil War. After which The Jacobs' will hold a discussion on Judaism during the Great War Between the States. Learn about Jews & the slave trade, the Jewish home front and life on the field of combat.

## TORAH SCHOOL SUPPORT FUND



Thank you to all those wonderful supporters. Your support What a great year it has been for me! First I want to thank all the many people who contributed to my Marathon Run. You made it happen. Your support was so important. You were all in my pocket and helped me get across the finish line. To list all the names would take

three pages. I have sent you a personal thank you card instead. However, please know that your support helped complete our Torah School Support Fund this year. It was a success...we got across the finish line. We are strong when we all come together toward one goal.

Our membership continues to grow and return to its former strength. Please remember to give our committee names of people you meet so we can invite them to our many activities and have them join our family.



I will be stepping off the Board as of June 30th. It has been my pleasure to work toward a strong Temple Ner Ami. I will be working closely with Julia Newman, offering my time and support for all the many programs she makes possible here at our wonderful Torah School.

Again, thank you all for helping me to achieve my goals this year.

*Arla Crane, Torah School Support Fund*

*In Focus  
Photography and Video*

~BAR/BAT MITZVAH  
~PORTRAITURE  
~WEDDINGS

Kenneth Bahr  
(805) 558-4048  
[www.infocusphotographyandvideo.com](http://www.infocusphotographyandvideo.com)  
[info@infocusphotographyandvideo.com](mailto:info@infocusphotographyandvideo.com)

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**Daniel  
Newman  
Lessler**



**PIANO**  
**Performer/Teacher/Composer**  
[dlessler@usc.edu](mailto:dlessler@usc.edu)

Home: 805-386-3730 Mobile: 805-407-5855





3370 Sunset Valley Rd. Moorpark  
(Off Tierra Rejada near 23 Fwy)





**J.O.L.T.**  
(Jews Out Learning Together)

**Lag B'Omer Trip**  
**Sunday May 15, 2011**  
**1:00 PM**



Up close at the live animal show!

*Just \$7 per person includes:*

-  Pony Paddock Picnic Area
-  Tractor Drawn Wagon Ride to Strawberry patch (1:30pm)
-  Pick up to 2 pounds strawberries per person
-  Admission to farm Animal Center with play area, kids corral, live animal show



Pick your own fresh strawberries!



Meet some new friends including alpacas, and a scottish highlander cow!



Made possible through a grant from:



**Please RSVP by May 1st!**

Temple Beth Torah (805) 647-4181, Temple Ner Ami (805) 388-3824

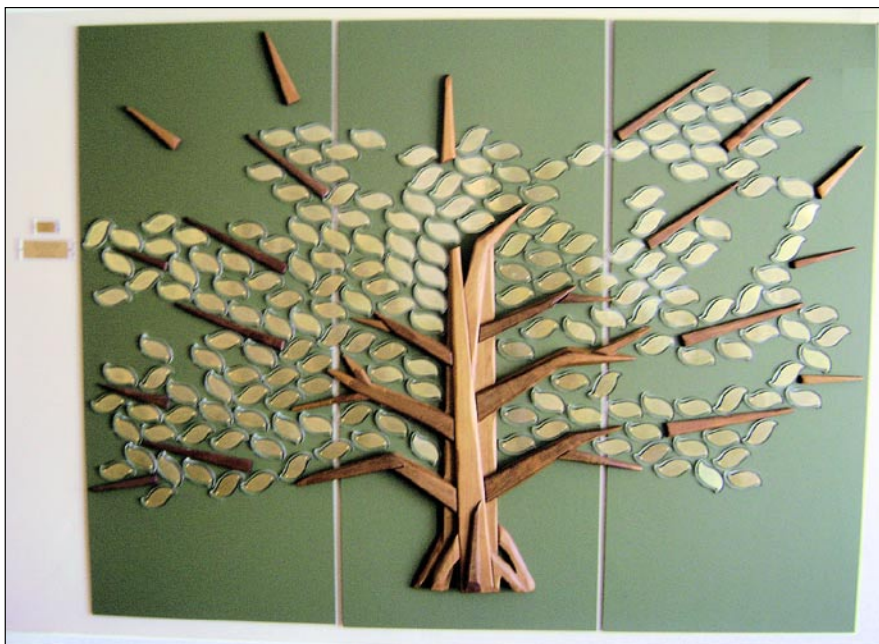


# Our Tree of Life Has Returned!

On Friday April 8th we dedicated our Tree of Life, now "growing" proudly in Temple foyer thanks to the efforts of Aaron Dvoretzky, Sharon Dvoretzky and Jay Crane. Each were honored for their efforts on new leaves for the tree, as was the celebration of it's reconstruction.

The Tree of Life (*Etz Chaim*) has always held center stage for Judaism. The concept blossomed from that of a tree in the Garden of Eden to representing the Torah itself. In our beautiful Tree of Life in the Temple foyer, we can see and reflect on the many important moments and memories reflected on each leaf: births, passings, b'nai mitzvah, weddings and honors. These are the moments of our lives and, together, represent the Torah of tradition that we pass on to the next generation. May this tree continue to bloom and spread as our community grows.

To purchase a leaf to memorialize something or someone close to your heart, pick up an application form next to the tree, or contact the Temple office and we will get you all the details.



*Ceremony included singing by Cantor Karen Dworsky, a Biblical lesson and quiz from Rabbi Lotker, and some special gifts presented to Karen, Aaron, and Jay from our very own Oneg Queen, Naomi Brill.*





## Somis Pantry Founder Honored with Prestigious Jefferson Award

She battled cancer and made a promise to help others after she healed and now years later after that promise to herself, **Beth Yale** is the driving force behind Somis Pantry.

"I was diagnosed with cancer

at age 37. My girls were young, 5 and 9 and at that point in my life I thought, if I survive this, there's got to be something that I do that's really worthwhile in my lifetime."

Following her recovery, Beth worked tirelessly for 20 years at a non-profit that supported young-adults with cancer. After retiring, and moving to Somis she continued to fulfill her promise—to make a difference in the lives of others.

And so, the Somis Pantry. Co-founded in October 2008 with childhood friend, **Julia Newman**, the Pantry primarily serves families in Somis and Camarillo. All of the families are considered working poor, have fallen on hard times or are unemployed. Somis Pantry is an agency of Food Share, the Ventura County food bank. It feeds 65 families a month—

approximately 300 people. Beth also organizes an annual clothing drive each Fall.

Gathering food to feed this many people a month is nearly a full-time job. Beth puts in 20-30 hours a week going to Food Share, local markets, and speaking to local philanthropic organizations to raise money to purchase food.

The Jefferson Awards, co-founded by **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis**, were established in 1972 Beth

was nominated to receive the honor by **Patti Pape**, the Principal of Somis School. In receiving this award Beth was noted to have courage, vision, dedication and tenacity. In founding the Pantry, she has had a significant positive impact on her community.

From the beginning, the Jefferson Awards has been based on a simple idea. One of the most powerful ideas in the world. One person can make a difference.

**Beth Yale** is that person.

To hear more about Beth & the Pantry look at the link from abc7.com: <http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/video?id=7430291&syndicate=syndicate&section=>



## May Outside Organization Meetings



### CITY OF HOPE - GENERAL MEETING

Monday, May 9, 2011 12:30 pm

*Performance by Camarillo High Choir*

Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

### CITY OF HOPE - BOARD MEETING

Monday May 23, 2011 - 9:30 AM

Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

### HADASSAH GENERAL MEETING

Will be meeting here again beginning in June 2011

Natalie Rosen - Co-President 805-484-3523

Judy Meisels - Co-President 805-482-9222



### ORT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 5th, 2011 - 10am

Annelies Regen - 805-445-9722

### ORT General Meeting

Thursday, May 26th, 2011 - 11:30 am

Annelies Regen - 805-445-9722

### NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Tues-Wed 7-8:15 pm,

Sat. 6:30-7:30 pm,

Sunday (Men only) 7-8 am

# The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

## Honorarums/Memorials

Naomi Brill in loving memory of Marvin Krantz

William & Claire Goldstein in loving memory of William's beloved Mother, Minnie

Albert Schwartz in loving memory of his dear departed wife, Terri Schwartz

Jack Perr purchased a leaf on the Tree of Life in loving memory of his wife, Laurie Perr

Alan Levy in honor of our Adult Education Programs

Verna Merrin in loving memory of Verna's Dear Departed Sister, Roberta Borovoy

Paul & Joan Taubman - Mazel Tov to Rabbi Mike & Sonia in their new home

Richard & Ellen Brand in loving memory of Michael Brand

Paul & Joan Taubman in loving memory of Joan's Cousin, Barbara Louis

Robert M. & Joyce A. Brown in loving memory of Joyce's Mother, Anna Adelson

Raye Gabriel in honor of Remembrances

Jack & Marlene Votion in loving memory of of Marlene's Father, Arthur Goodman

Kailai Kaden in loving memory of of her Dear Father, Jack Okun

## Torah School Principal's Chair

Wendy Lefkowitz in honor of Arla Crane running the LA Marathon on March 20th.

Michael & Patricia Glick in honor of Arla Crane running the LA Marathon on March 20th.

Regen, Annelies in loving memory of of her Father Ludwig Linz and Husband Rudi Regen

Slapin, William H. & Judi in loving memory of Annette Shaw (Judi Slapin's Mother)

## Friend us on Facebook!

Get the latest news, pictures, and other info about everything going at Temple on **facebook**. To see what's happening today go to:

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the page 'Temple Ner Ami: The Ventura Jewish Connection'. The page header includes the Facebook logo, a search bar, and the page name. Below the name, it says 'Local Business · Camarillo, California' and 'Edit Info'. There is a row of five small photos showing people at a table. The 'Wall' section is visible, with a 'Share:' button and options for 'Status', 'Photo', 'Link', and 'Video'. A text input field says 'Write something...'. Below that, a post from 'Temple Ner Ami: The Ventura Jewish Connection' is shown, dated 'about an hour ago'. The post text reads: 'A Huge Thank You Ann Levin-Sookikian and Gary Lieb and their committee who put on a fabulously sunny Purim Carnival despite the torrential rain!'. Below the text are 'Like' and 'Comment' buttons.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Temple-Ner-Ami-The-Ventura-Jewish-Connection/195877267344>

# TEMPLE NER AMI

## *Yahrzeits - May 2011*

### **Friday, May 6, 2011**

---

Ron Levine.....son of Elva Levine  
Harry Jack Solomon.....father of Michael Solomon  
Jenny Brejensky.....mother of Sol Brejensky  
Gustav Einstein.....father of Gudi Amerikaner  
Israel Elson.....grandfather of Cheri Kurman  
Fannie Babich.....mother of Jim Babich  
Rose Friedman.....mother of Beverly Kerwien  
Herman Rosenberg...grandfather of Barbara Michaels  
Khos Lertzman.....father of Della Carmona  
Milton Zimmon.....husband of Ann Zimmon  
Hy Zusman.....grandfather of Dawn Zusman  
Moe Kadish\*\* .....father of Barbara Michaels  
Murray Bluestein\*\* .....father of Michael Bluestein  
Lisa Chriqui Banon.....mother of Sonia Banon

### **Friday, May 13, 2011**

---

Brandon Jeffrey King\*\* .....brother of Jennifer Moore,  
son of Sandra King  
Daniel Joseph Kerwien.....son of M/M Kerwien  
Catherine Harriman.....mother of Lenore Harriman  
Ann Leventhal.....mother of Elaine Jaffe  
Harvey Shaw.....father of Judi Slapin  
Jeno Schwartz.....father of Albert Schwartz  
Kenneth Wechsler.....husband of Phyllis Wechsler  
Jon David Kerwien.....son of M/M Kerwien  
Anna F. Jacobson.....grandmother of Shari Brody  
Robert Moore\*\* .....father of Steven Moore  
Hyman Leboff.....father of Raymond Leboff  
Blanche Smith.....mother of Fran Titen

### **Friday, May 20, 2011**

---

Sam Smith ..... father of Fran Titen  
Sidney Zneimer.....father of Joel Zneimer  
Ethel Zneimer.....mother of Joel Zneimer  
Jenny Blonder.....grandmother of Sandi Banks  
Ray Schwartz.....mother of Albert Schwartz  
Morton Leventhal.....husband of Sylvia Leventhal

### **Friday, May 27, 2011**

---

Jechiel Feingold.....father of Israel Feingold  
Harlan Felder.....father of Jeff Felder  
Sophie Morris.....aunt of Rita Cooperman  
Carol Sobelman.....late wife of Darryl Sobelman  
Rose Baranoff.....mother of Elsie Lichtbach  
Esther Zeitz.....mother of Judy Sitko  
Marian Siegel.....mother of Ellie Felder  
Irene Palumbo.....mother of Nancy Glickman  
Ruth Rosenthal.....grandmother of Sarene Wallace  
Louis J. Perlmutter.....father of Barbara Perlmutter  
Sam Aaron Milner.....father of Dr. Jack Milner  
Michael Bennett\*\* .....father of Joel Bennett  
Mazie Pomerantz.....mother of Karen Rosenstein  
Herbert and Judith Kohls.....Parents of Stan Kohls  
Frances Ray.....mother of Ruth Brott Nathan

---

\* 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

## On-Going Temple Adult Classes

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

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

**Wed 7:30pm Judaism 101**– with Student Rabbi Lisa. May 4, 18, 25, & June 1.

*For info on Adult Education contact Julia Newman at 388-3824 or [educator@templenerami.org](mailto:educator@templenerami.org)*

## Torah School Sessions & Events

### MAY

- 2 Regular session + Yom Hashoah
- 4 Regular session
- 9 Regular session + Camp Kadimah – Yom H'atzmaut & Yom Ha-Zikaron
- 11 Regular session + Camp Kadimah – Yom Ha'atzmaut & Yom Ha-Zikaron
- 13 **Family Shabbat Service led by the PreK-Kindergarten (Dinner)**
- 16 Regular session
- 18 Regular session
- 20 **Graduating Seniors & College Student Shabbat Birthright program**
- 22 **JOLT – Lag B'Omer at Underwood Farms**
- 23 Regular session  
**Junior Youth Group 6:15 -7:30**
- 25 **ALL SCHOOL PARTY (Wednesday) - Teacher Appreciation**

### JUNE 28 – AUGUST 4

SUMMER HAVERIM - CAMP PROGRAM

- July 16 Bar Mitzvah *Daniel Siela*
- Aug 13 Bat Mitzvah *Hannah Harris*
- Aug 20 Bar Mitzvah *Adam Sookikian*

*Teen  
Connection  
Calendar*

### MAY

- 4 NAUTY
- 11 Place of Our Own
- 18 NAUTY
- 20-22 SPRING KALLAH (Malibu)
- 20 Graduating Seniors & College Students Shabbat Birthright Presentation
- 22 JOLT – Lag B'Omer Picnic at Underwood Farms
- 25 **ALL SCHOOL PARTY (Wednesday)**  
Teacher/Youth Advisor Appreciation

### June 28-August 4

Summer Haverim. See flyers, eMail and facebook for details.

# TEMPLE NER AMI -May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 1 2p Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Day)	12:30p Lunch N' Learn 4:15p Adult Hebrew Class 4:15p Torah School 7p Adults-What Happens After I Die?		12p Torah-Woman's Perspective 4:15p Torah School 7:30p Judaism 101	National Day of Prayer @ 10 ORT Board Meeting	7:30p Shabbat Service	9:30 Torah Study
8	12:30p City of Hope Mtg. 12:30p Lunch N' Learn 4:15p Adult Hebrew Class 4:15p Torah School	10:30 Eager Readers Book Club	12p Torah-Woman's Perspective 4:15p Torah School 7p Board of Directors Meeting		6:30p Shabbat Service-Pre K & Kinde	9:30 Torah Study
15	12:30p Lunch N' Learn 4:15p Adult Hebrew Class 4:15p Torah School		12p Torah-Woman's Perspective 4:15p Torah School 7:30p Judaism 101	6p Jews & Lutherans Program	7:30p Graduation Shabbat Service	9:30 Torah Study
22	9:30 City of Hope Board Mtg. 12:30p Lunch N' Learn 4:15p Adult Hebrew Class 4:15p Torah School	9:30 City of Hope Board Mtg	12p Torah-Woman's Perspective 4:15p Torah School 7:30p Judaism 101	Last Day of Torah School @ 12p ORT General Meeting 7p Sisterhood Board Mtg.	6:45p Tot Shabbat Service 7:30p Shabbat Service	9:30 Torah Study 6:30p MOVIE NIGHT-Manassas 1861
29	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY @ 12:30p Lunch N' Learn 4:15p Adult Hebrew Class		12p Torah-Woman's Perspective 7:30p Judaism 101	10 ORT Board Meeting 6p Lutherans & Jews: More alike than	7:30p Shabbat Service	9:30 Torah Study

Go to [www.TempleNerAmi.org](http://www.TempleNerAmi.org) for the latest Calendar Information!



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Camarillo, CA 93010

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## TEMPLE NER AMI Appreciates Your Continued Support!

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**:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Temple General Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Temple Building Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Newman Scholarship Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Torah School Principal's Chair
- \_\_\_\_\_ Irv Dubin Teen Scholarship Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Temple Music Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Art Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sigmund Jaffe Memorial Library Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Temple Prayer Book Fund

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](mailto:admin@templenerami.org)

Submission date for all material:

**12<sup>th</sup> of each month**

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Loving Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_