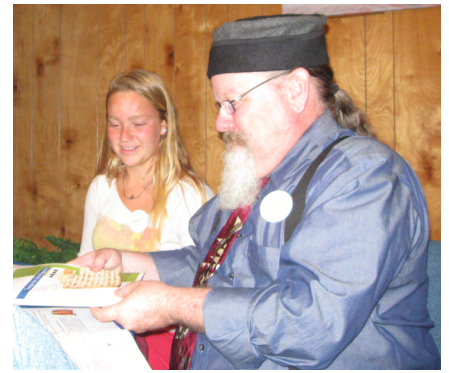




Another Very Happy Passover at Temple Ner Ami!



Passover Seder Dinner photos courtesy of Joan Frank



God-Wrestling

Rabbi Lisa Bock

A number of weeks ago, discussing the Torah portion Vayikra, I wrote the following:

As a youngster, I was fortunate to have horses, and I would get all my afterschool chores done as fast as I could so that I could spend as much time as possible riding my horses. I think that just might be where I got to think about nature, about life, and about God.

I often thought that God was watching me, and as I rode, I would talk to God and share my thoughts and concerns. At the time, God seemed to me to be like a kindly grandfather who would listen to me and give me advice.



Later on, though, perhaps around



college, and perhaps influenced by the strides women were making in equal rights, pay, and so forth, I began to re-think this image. Perhaps God wasn't really grandfatherly, perhaps grandmotherly, or perhaps, as I thought later,

beyond anything I could imagine, and certainly beyond any human form.

In this week's Torah portion Vayikra (meaning God called), God is giving instructions to Moses that Moses is to relate to the people, about bringing offerings to the Tent of Meeting. In this first chapter in the book of Leviticus, there is a phrase noting that one of these offerings will be turned to smoke on the altar, a "gift of pleasing odor to the Lord."



A pleasing odor to the Lord?

Does God appreciate the smell of a burnt offering?

The text in our Torah certainly makes it sound like God has a nose and olfactory senses...are we to take this seriously?

Seriously, yes. Literally, perhaps not.

You see, our great commentators, including Rashi and Ibn Ezra, and others, considered this as well.

The idea that God actually smells the aroma of a burnt offering is completely rejected by our Sages. One of our major commentators, Rashi, says that what is pleasing to God is



that Israel is doing God's instructions and making sacrifices, not that God appreciates the smell of the burnt offerings.

One of the important things I think we can take from this is the notion that our idea of God is something that changes as we grow, and that our sages and scholars have also wrestled with their own ideas of God. This gives us the opportunity to question and explore the question of what is God for ourselves. I have noticed that we may come to some idea at one point in life only to find it changing later. We grow and change and mature, and I have a sense that our ideas and questions do too. What is God to you? How and where do you find God?

This spurred conversation with several people, and I found myself not only talking about the views expressed above, but also recommending the book, "Finding God," by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme.

Requests then followed, asking for a class on the Jewish Views of God, and what they are. In answer to that request, I will be leading a 7 session Adult Education Series in May and June, based on the views presented in "Finding God," Sonsino and Syme's book.

I am really excited about this – whether you are interested in great Jewish thinkers, perhaps you are a confirmed atheist, or perhaps you are interested in the question of whether Jewish views of God have been influenced by life, time, and the Holocaust, then this series is for you. This series is titled, "God-Wrestling," as we are the Children of Israel, and Israel means, to "wrestle with God."

Where do you find God? Do you wrestle with God? Come join us – this will be a fascinating series!



TEMPLE NER AMI

515 Temple Avenue
Camarillo, CA 93010

www.TempleNerAmi.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri, 9am - 2pm

Telephone/FAX

(805) 388-3824
(805) 383-1011

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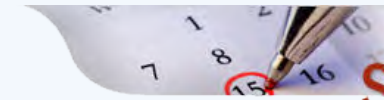
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SAVE the DATE

Musical Shabbat: Friday, May 17th, 7:30 pm

The Shema

Compositions presented by our Ner Ami Choir and musical ensemble, under the direction of Moises Mercado, our Ner Ami Choir Director.

David Schneider Bar Mitzvah, Sat., May 11th, 4 pm

Jackson Kamola Bar Mitzvah, Sat., May 18th, 10 am

Graduating Seniors Shabbat: Fri., May 24, 7:30 pm

ORT - Ukelele Strummer Band, Thur. May 23, noon

Memorial Day - Office Closed, Monday May 27th

Honorable Menschen



We're proud to announce that the Channel Island Riptide Midget 18AA ice hockey team took a bronze medal at the national championships in Hartford Connecticut April 3-7th. Our own **Blake Weinstein** (top row, second from right) is a player on that team. Congratulations. No team from that league ever placed at that level in the Nationals!



President's Report

Keith Elliott

I have a single message this month—a wish to thank all of you who have been supporting Temple Ner Ami through your Membership, tuition, and participation in our Donor Circle. There are now over 30 member families in the Donor Circle, and to honor them we are having a special event on May 4th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Rabbi Lisa will be speaking about some of the things we have planned for the future, and the ways we have grown, but the main purpose of the night will be to honor those members who have been able to financially support TNA (and of course, we will be schmoozing and enjoying a few goodies!) Eligible members

should be receiving their invitations by the time this issue of the Megillah is out.

On May 5th, the Rabbi will also be giving a luncheon for members of the Gevurah and Torah levels of the Donor Circle as well.

Did you know that nearly every way that members contribute to TNA other than dues and tuition is counted toward Donor Circle totals? This includes honoraria, donations to special funds like the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and Scholarships Fund, even Oy Vegas tickets and Purim baskets. You may already

be a member of the Donor Circle and not even be aware of it, or may actually be very close to reaching the first level; many people are in fact very close already. If you are not sure, contact me through the Temple Office or email me at keithelliott@templenerami.org.

It has been such a joy to watch our Temple grow over the last year, and to watch our various programs flourish. It's also been a difficult year at times too; our membership is a lot smaller than in some past years, but is growing again. I really do believe that Temple Ner Ami has more to offer than ever before, and that we are prepared to ensure that our community continues to survive and thrive. It is thanks to our members and financial supporters that we are able to do so.



The Board of Directors wishes to thank those members who have made an extra special financial commitment this year to support Temple Ner Ami.

Isabel Blau
Rabbi Lisa & Ken Bock
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Doris Weinberg
Jim & Allyson Williams
Marc & Cynthia Wolfsohn
Allen & Marcia Zatkan

Skirball Cultural Center



Visions and Values: Jewish Life from Antiquity to America

This unique exhibition traces the history, accomplishments, and values of the Jewish people over 4,000 years.

Travel through the many lands where Jews have lived and carried on a rich tradition and discover how the visions of our ancestors helped shape our values today. The Visions and Values galleries explore themes including Beginnings, Journeys, Holidays, Lifecycle, Synagogue, Passage to America, Nation of Immigrants, the Holocaust, Israel, and Personal Journeys, among others.

Visions and Values' special exhibit "Lincoln Spotlight" features objects on loan from the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. Among the treasures is an extremely rare letter written in Lincoln's own hand days before his tragic assassination in which he quotes his Second Inaugural Address ("With malice toward none, with charity for all").

Join us for a trip to the Skirball to see this unique display of the history of Jewish people.

Sunday - May 19, 2013

- Bus leaves Temple Ner Ami promptly at 9 am
- We will return around 3 pm
- Cost is \$36. Includes bus, tips, and private guided tour. Please make check payable to "Sisterhood of Temple Ner Ami".
- Lunch: Bring your own or purchase one at the center.

Your reservation by prepayment must be made by May 14th to insure a seat on the bus!

Questions? Call the Sisterhood at (805) 987-2000.





Yom Hashoah Day of Remembrance

by Julia Newman

Shalom,

As I complete my tenure

as the Educator of Temple Ner Ami, I think back on all of the good things we have done. I take tremendous pride in everything our little school has accomplished, but along the way there have been some highlights that are especially meaningful to me. One of those is our most recent Yom Hashoah Day of Remembrance.

It is the tradition at Ner Ami that our students have a Mitzvah project; that they perform a good deed that enhances the meaning and relevance of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. These projects generally take the form of community service—tikkun olam—healing the world.

Last Fall Rabbi Lisa and I talked about the idea of our students having a class project—interviews of our community’s Holocaust survivors and liberators. We presented the idea to the teachers, students and parents and all agreed that it would be very worthwhile for the students, the survivors, their families and the community-at-large.

On Sunday, April 7 to a standing-room-only audience we showed a film which was a compilation of those interviews. Many of the people had already been filmed by the Shoah foundation, had created their own documentaries and had given public lectures in schools, synagogues and churches. What we felt was different about this experience was the very personal and intimate nature of a young person sitting down with a senior and finding out about their life. Truthfully, this will likely be the last generation that will have the opportu-

nity to meet and speak personally to a Holocaust survivor.

All of those interviewed talked about their lives after coming to the United States. They all had done something to serve our Country and humanity. They had lectured to numerous organizations about their experiences, including military posts, schools, and organizations serving the homeless. Several served in our Armed Forces shortly after their arrival in the



United States, providing translating and code-breaking expertise. One of them became a Nazi-Hunter and was responsible for the arrest of several Nazi war criminals. Some had strong ties to Israel.

What we found across-the-board was that all of those interviewed were articulate, smart and inspirational. What was especially interesting was the remarkable memory, attention to details and dates. Although this is not surprising, considering the experiences all had gone through—it still was a fascinating phenomenon of the interview experience.

The credits at the end of the film showed that it was produced and

directed by me and Saul Lessler, one of our 7th grade teachers and also my husband. I jokingly, but honestly commented that prior to this project the only thing that Saul and I had produced and sometimes successfully directed is our son, Daniel.↵↵

At the program I wanted everyone to know this because without the assistance of Ken Bahr—who helped us to edit and added music and photos—it would not be the film that it now is. Saul and I painfully learned that some of the best work was left on the cutting room floor. We had taken nearly 9 hours of video and condensed it to an hour and 20 minutes. However, copies of the full interviews will be available in the libraries of Temple Ner Ami Library, Temple Beth Torah Library and the Jewish Federation.

As a result of this experience, we have decided to continue the project—with the hope of interviewing and chronicling additional survivors and liberators of Ventura County.

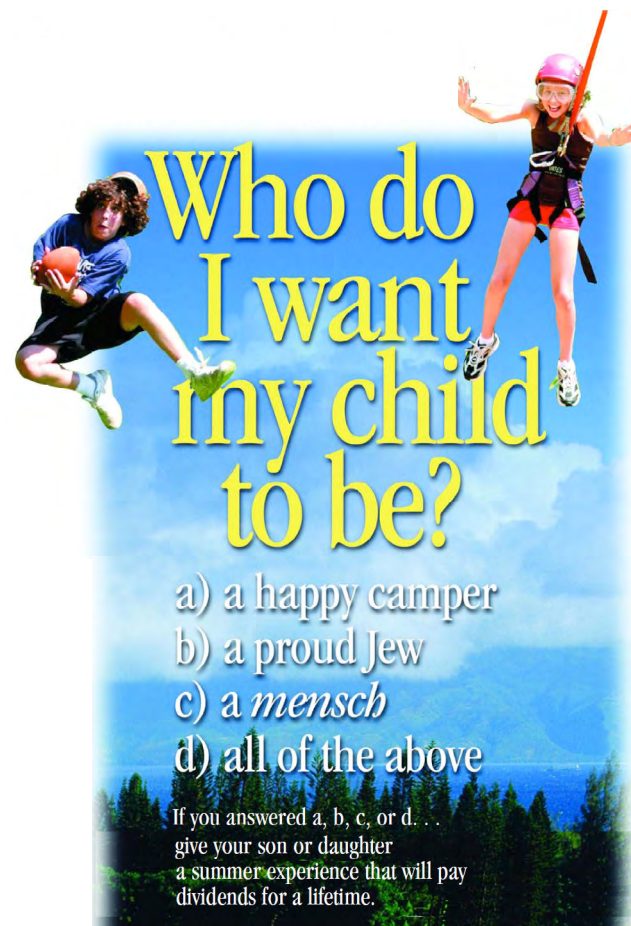
We are truly grateful for the stories that these people shared with us and we are humbled by their service that they have rendered to the world.

We will never forget them. We will never forget what they have taught us.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

Survivors and Interviewers

Celina Binia by Jackson Kamola, Lee Edwards by Noah Steinberg, Ruth Fridberg by Ayla Dvoretzky, Gerald & Inge Malenbaum by Cooper D’Inca, Libby & Mark Pierce by Grayson Baratta, Bernd & Judy Simon by Justin Lieb, and Steve Strem by Evan Grossmann.



These exciting Summer Camp Activities are sponsored by the



For registration go to www.jewishventuracounty.org Click on “Summer Camp”

Teen Haverim

for incoming 6-12 graders
June 18-July 25 (No camp July 1-5)

A summer outing and mitzvah program for Jewish teens. Meets in the afternoons from 1:00-5:00 (some exceptions) on Tues, Wed and Thurs. Two afternoons a week are devoted to traveling and having fun together and one afternoon is planned as a tikkun olam (community service). Outings include: Kayaking, Train Trip, Magic Mountain, Overnight Camping, Dodger Game, Movies, Lazer Tag, Beach BBQ.

Location: Temple Ner Ami, Camarillo. Contact: Gil Ramot - (805) 388-3824; (805) 223-3497 eMail: gilramot@hotmail.com.

CAMP RUACH (SPIRIT)

for incoming 4-5th graders - July 22-July 26 (9am-4pm)

Got Ruach?? Then you’ll want to go to a *spirit* filled camp experience designed specifically for active 4th & 5th graders. Learn fun new words in Hebrew like *Glee-da* as you go on day trips to Sky High, Vertical Heaven, Firefly Pottery, Casitas Water Park, Golf ‘N Stuff, Movies. There’s also Cooking, Arts & Crafts and Water Fun. And don’t forget—making new Haverim (friends)! Location: Temple Beth Torah, Ventura Contact: Danielle Stoyanoff (805) 647-4181 x19 eMail: tssecretary@templebethtorah.com

Camp Gan Israel

Ages 6-10 and 11-13 - July 8 - July 26

Give your child a summer in a wholesome environment for mind, body and spirit, nurturing Jewish identity and friendships! At our beach-front location, activities such as art, sports, cooking, Hebrew and field trips are used as a springboard for developing values and character building. Children will participate in community service projects and doing mitzvot while having organic-fun and creating memories to last a lifetime!

Location: Chabad of Oxnard
Contact: Racheli Muchnik (805) 382-4770 eMail: info@chabadofoxnard.com

Camp Kef (fun)

for incoming 1-3 graders - July 29-Aug. 9 (9am-4pm)

Jewish camp has never been this much *kef* (fun). A wonderful summer program for young children which includes arts & crafts, baking, water-play, sports and field trips to Pump-It-Up, Children’s Museum, Bowling and more...

Location: Temple Beth Torah, Ventura
Contact: Danielle Stoyanoff - (805) 647-4181 x19
Email: tssecretary@templebethtorah.com

Gan Camarillo Preschool

Pre-K and Kinder, July 1- July 26 (9:30am-3pm)

Challah baking, Stories, Israeli dance, Drama. Jewish songs, group discussions and creative crafts, combine to create an atmosphere of joy, fun and spirit in each child that attends! Our experienced early childhood educators provide a safe and loving environment where each child feels “at home”.

Mon.-Fri., half day options available.
Location: Gan Camarillo Preschool
Contact: Leah Lang (805) 982-0831 eMail: Leahlang@gmail.com

Please join with us & celebrate



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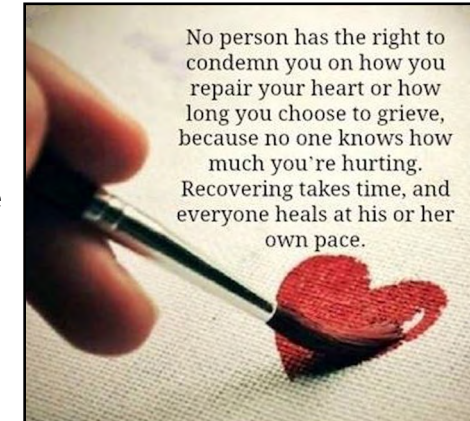
By Harriet Lit

I always played the "what if" game in my head. I rationalized that if I imagined the worst thing that could happen in any particular situation, then I would be prepared to act

appropriately and immediately. Well, I have finally accepted that this was a total waste of my time and energy. My beloved Morty used to tell me that I was being negative, while I (a positive person) always saw this as the positive aspect of my personality. During Morty's yahrtzeit this year, I hired a company to upgrade the heating and air conditioning in my home. Making any change on my own is slightly traumatic for me. My thought process goes to: what would he have done, are they taking advantage of a widow, and am I too trusting. Before, during, and after this project many unforeseen events presented themselves. I lost two nights' sleep and made myself ill preparing myself for all my "what if's". What a colossal waste of time and energy! Everything worked out beautifully. I finally understand that engaging in negative thinking is a pattern to be broken. I am learning to silence

negative thoughts before they take over my life. Depending on the circumstance, coming up with a positive alternative helps. Most negative thoughts fall into one of the following patterns:

- WHAT IF'S
- UNFAIR COMPARISONS
- OVER-GENERALIZING
- ALL-OR-NOTHING THINKING
- SHOULD'S
- GLASS IS HALF EMPTY
- REGRETS
- OVER-RESPONSIBILITY
- MIND-READING
- LABELING
- CATASTROPHIZING



No person has the right to condemn you on how you repair your heart or how long you choose to grieve, because no one knows how much you're hurting. Recovering takes time, and everyone heals at his or her own pace.

Do you recognize yourself? Let's work on breaking that pattern and making ourselves happier and healthier.

Last month I mentioned the wonderful - free- education classes available to Kaiser members. I received several requests for the phone number. If you haven't already called, here it is: 818-719-4305. Enjoy!

If you would like to talk, share your story, help others, or form a support group, please call me at: 484-9119.

Remember: every day is a new beginning.



Habitat for Humanity®

Join us to Do a Mitzvah!

Spend 4 hours to help build a house!

Sunday, April 28th, 2012 from 8-12 noon

We are invited to join in with Temple Adat Elohim to work on a building a home for a deserving family in Simi Valley.

No cost to participate – just your time.

Working on Habitat projects is a lot of fun, and good old-fashioned hard work all at the same time. Youngsters 15 and up may participate with a parent.

To participate, register by going to this website:

<http://hfhvc.volunteerhub.com/Events/Event/Summary.aspx?EventID=1319110>

Click the "sign in" in the upper right hand corner, and register your participation as a volunteer from Temple Ner Ami.



Don't Miss This Major Opportunity!

by Shlomo Kreitzer

Motivated by personal experiences with loss, **Terry Kaldhusdal** and **Mike Bernhagen** produced a powerful and inspiring documentary film that examines how 21st century Americans live at the end of their lives. Most of us have gotten away from openness about end of life decisions.

"Consider the Conversation" reminds us that thinking and talking about life's final chapter well in advance can help prevent unnecessary physical, emotional, spiritual, and social suffering, that is, to help avoid regrets.

This program, **"Consider the Conversation"**, goes beyond the issue of whether a person has an Advance Directive. (That, of course is fundamental and important.) This documentary invites people to start to talk about the natural, sometimes difficult, and, of course, emotional event called end of life.

This documentary shows people who are looking at questions like:

- Are there things you want to say to one another while you can talk and hear?
- Does everyone know and understand the wishes of the person who may be dying?
- Who gets to make the important decisions at this time: the physician, the family or the person whose life it is?
- Is it okay, even if very emotional, to put into words that the person is dying (and we're saying goodbye)?

After the documentary, we will have an opportunity to talk with **Dr. Lanyard Dial**, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice President/CEO & the Medical Director. Dr. Dial is so wonderfully down to earth. Also it's great that the temple and the church are joining together to provide this important program to the community. This program may also be a "gift," a reminder, to the people who see it of doing something so important for you and your family.

CONSIDER THE CONVERSATION: A Documentary on a Taboo Subject

A Free Presentation

Motivated by personal experiences with loss, Terry Kaldhusdal and Mike Bernhagen produced a powerful and inspiring documentary film that examines how 21st century Americans live at the end of their lives. "Consider the Conversation" reminds us that thinking and talking about life's final chapter well in advance can help prevent unnecessary physical, emotional, spiritual, and social suffering.

The film includes personal accounts from patients, family members, doctors, nurses, clergy, and national experts on the physical, social and emotional issues related to dying.

Discussion will follow featuring Lanyard K. Dial MD, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice President/CEO & Medical Director

**Saturday, April 27, 2013
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
at
TEMPLE NER AMI &
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515 Temple Avenue
(corner of Temple & Lewis)
Camarillo, CA 93010
388-3824 or 482-3505**

Award of Merit Short Documentary | Award of Excellence Film for Social Change | Award of Merit Viewer Impact | Best Shorts International Competition




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Livingston Memorial VNA
and Hospice**



Sisterhood News!

by Bobbe Jacobs

Please mark your calendars for the 4th Thursday of every month for a Sisterhood Event.

Membership is only \$18 till June 2013. As of June 1st, 2013 will be the renewal of Sisterhood dues and they will be only \$25 a year. We have decided to make dues only \$25 for now on. Hopefully more of you ladies will join and become active.

Our May event is a day trip to the **Skirball Museum** on Sunday, May 19, 2013. Please refer to the flyer in the Megillah. The bus will leave at 8:30am sharp. We will be having a private guided tour, thanks to Arla Crane for setting it up. Hope you all can make it. Sign-up is at the Temple and only taking the first 40 people.

The **Gardening Event** in April was fantastic. The presentation was very interesting and now we all know what plants grow best in Camarillo.

The **Sisterhood Gift Shop** has been cleaned up, and we will soon be purchasing more items to fill it. But please stop by to see how nice it looks. If you are at the temple and wish to purchase something, Rabbi Lisa has

a key and would be very happy to help you. Otherwise, the Gift Shop will be available from 6:45 to 7:20pm every Friday before Shabbat services or you can call me at 805-389-4320 and we can arrange a meeting or appointment to assist with your purchase. Just in case you found that you were missing something from your Passover Seder this past year, we have a beautiful Seder Plate, and lovely Afikomen covers that are April Specials!

Our phone tree will be contacting you monthly to say hello and inviting you to our next "event".

Reminder for your calendar, **NEW DATE** for **Shopping/Holiday Boutique will be Sunday, October 20**. Sisterhood will be have a old book sale and a white elephant booth. So check your closets, storage, homes, and see if you have anything you wish to get rid of, place in a box and contact me and I would be happy to come and pick it up for you if you do not have room to keep it till October.

I want to wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all of the Mothers of Temple Ner Ami.



New Adult Ed Class Series "God-Wrestling"

Rabbi Lisa Bock will be leading a 7-session Adult Education Series on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in May and June, based on the views presented in **"Finding God,"** Sonsino and Syme's book on the Jewish Views of God. We'll explore great thinkers, post-holocaust views, and our own views.

- May 7: God in the Bible and Rabbinic Literature
- May 21: Views of God by Philo and Maimonides
- May 28: Views of God by Luria and Spinoza
- June 4: Views of God by Buber and Steinberg
- June 11: Views of God by Kaplan and Fromm
- June 18: Views of God by Heschel and Reines
- June 25: Post-Holocaust Views and Our Views



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Shane and his wife Barbara are active members at Temple Ner Ami and appreciate your support!

Summer is coming and so are the bugs!

Shane covers the Conejo Valley with a primary focus from Newbury Park to Ventura and surrounding cities.



Shane Davis

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THE 'BREW CREW

One of the reason I joined TNA was that I wanted to make new friends and feel like a part of the Jewish community. In the short year that I have been involved at TNA, I have made some great friends and I want to see them for more than just a few hours on Friday night. Community is the backbone of membership and I am happy to report (as your membership chairperson) that TNA is growing!

Within these new friendships, a few of us (aka Steve Moore, Cathy Lieb and myself along with our spouses), decided that it was time to create a group where Jewish adults could gather outside of services and after

the stress of daily life and be ACTIVE, have FUN and create new memories!



And that is how **The 'Brew Crew** was formed – Short for The Hebrew Crew, we plan on meeting about once a month for exciting, heart pumping, get up and try something new type of activities... well maybe not always heart pumping or thrill seeking but just getting together for a good time works too!

Our fun list varies but may include some of the following:

- Game Night
- Dodger Game
- Quading/Dirt Bike Riding
- Beer & Wine tours
- Bowling
- Dinner and Dancing
- Weekend in Vegas
- Theme Parties (Sock Hop, Roaring 20's, etc.)

The list of possibilities for **The 'Brew Crew** are endless! If you are interested in participating in this fun and active group, please email me at membership@templenerami.org and let me know you want to join **The 'Brew Crew!**

- Barbara Davis

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Member Spotlight – Libby Pierce

by Barbara Davis

One could say that a person's legacy is carried on through the family and friends who keep the memories alive. In many ways that is what Libby Pierce feels she is doing for her recently departed husband, Holocaust survivor Charles Pierce. It is admirable that for 58 years Libby was by Charles' side not only as his wife but as an advocate speaker of the Holocaust to more than 4000 students per year.

People don't always realize that in addition to doing such admirable work to support her husband, Libby herself is known for admirable work, and it is with great pleasure that I share her story.

Libby grew up in New York. At the age of 8, she was already playing Mah Jongg. After graduating high school in Brooklyn, she went to work for an insurance broker. She was set up on a blind date and three weeks later, her blind date turned out to be the love of her life. Charles proposed marriage just three weeks after they met and they were married six months to the day after that. Libby worked for the insurance broker until her first child was born and then she became a stay at home mother,

eventually to three children. Once the kids were all in school, Libby went back to work doing various jobs such as secretary, bookkeeper, billing clerk and as an insurance broker herself while at the same time, she was appointed President of the PTA.

After heading west and settling in Camarillo, Libby also served as the President of the Camarillo section of National Council of Jewish Women until it was disbanded. She has been a tutor for more than 25 years and still keeps in touch with a few of the kids she once mentored.

For the past 19 years, Libby has played piano for the Camarillo Health Center. Nowadays you can find her playing a game of Pan and Maj Jongg or even tickling the ivories in front of the board meeting at Leisure Village. She continues to tutor in El Descanso Elementary School on Monday & Wednesdays and her continued volunteer work doesn't end just yet – on Fridays, you can find her assisting Mark Malloy in the Temple Ner Ami office.

If you ask Libby what life's greatest lesson is, she will tell you to "al-



Name Badges Have Arrived!

Our long awaited member's name badges have finally made it to the Temple and have been received with enthusiasm. When you enter the building, we will typically have the blue storage containers (which are labeled alphabetically by last name) along the left wall.



For your convenience, the name badges are intended to be left at the temple. If your name is incorrectly spelled

or if you prefer a nickname, please fill out the form on the clipboard and we will get you a new badge. If you lose your badge, let us know and we will make you a new one.

Please wear your badge during services and at any temple event – this is a great way to finally discover the name of the person whose face

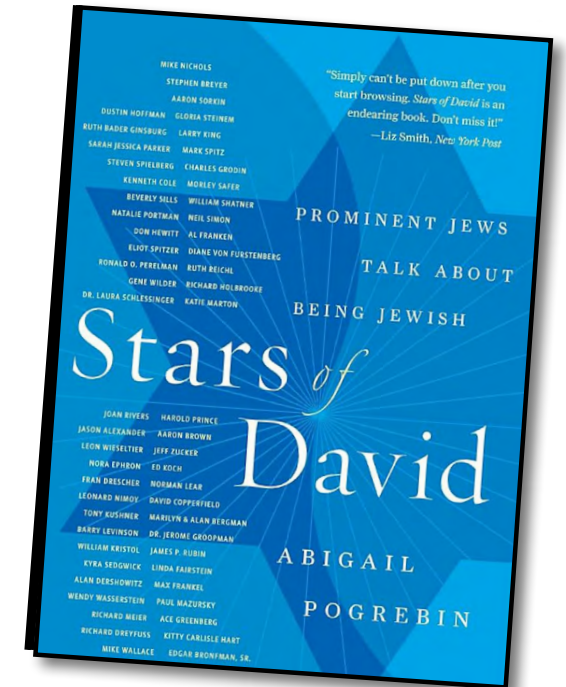
you know all too well but whose name you were too embarrassed to ask!

Eager Readers Book Club

Meets Tuesday, May 14th, 11am

April Book: *Stars of David*
by Abigail Pogrebin

Sixty-two of the most accomplished Jews in America speak intimately—most for the first time—about how they feel about being Jewish. In unusually candid interviews conducted by former 60 Minutes producer Abigail Pogrebin, celebrities ranging from Sarah Jessica Parker to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, from Larry King to Mike Nichols, reveal how resonant, crucial or incidental being Jewish is in their lives. The connections they have to their Jewish heritage range from hours in synagogue to bagels and lox; but every person speaks to the weight and pride of their Jewish history, the burdens and pleasures of observance, the moments they've felt most Jewish (or not). This book of vivid, personal conversations uncovers how being Jewish fits into a public life, and also how the author's evolving religious identity was changed by what she heard. *(from amazon.com)*



Each month a member selects a book for all members to read and discuss at the next meeting. Joining the club means you are reading at least one outstanding book every month. What a great idea! Please join us May 14th, in the Irv Dubin Library, at 11am.

Music Lessons

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Nominations for Our 2012-2013 Board of Directors

The Temple's Nominating Committee is very excited to report that the following Temple Ner Ami members have agreed to serve on the 2013-2014 Board of Directors. Please note that several persons are still "thinking about it" and have not yet put their names officially into the ring, so this list may be incomplete at time of printing.



Members:

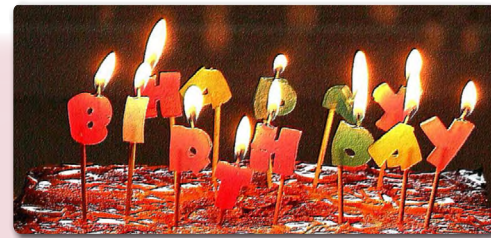
Naomi Brill
 Julia Newman
 Mitchell Schwartz
 Lisa Schwartz

Returning Members:

Barbara Davis
 Gary Goltz
 Steve Moore
 Steven Graff
 Keith Elliott
 Joan Frank
 Bonnie Shubb
 Susan Weinstein
 Cathy Kim-Lieb

Members commit to a two-year term when joining and have the opportunity to be on the board for successive terms. The congregation will vote on the slate as presented.

If you have write-in candidates, questions, concerns or wish to be considered yourself for election to the Board of Directors, please e-mail Steven Graff, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, at DrStevenGraff@yahoo.com and/or Keith Elliott, President of the Board of Directors, at KeithElliott@templenerami.org.



May BIRTHDAYS Members & Children

Blake Weinstein	1	Alex Borla	16	Nancy Borelli	24
Jonathan Bogen	1	Mildred Seidler	17	Mike Shapiro	25
Betty Stallman	3	Ariela Trinidad	18	Sarah Brejensky	26
Moises Mercado	3	Sharon Matorin	20	Isabel Blau	27
Zelda Greentree	6	Verna Merrin	21	Libby Pierce	27
Marsha Richardson	7	Grayson Baratta	21	Mary Harris	28
Lisa Sadowsky	7	Sharon Green	21	Francine Erickson	31
Julia Newman	8	David Fischler	22	Emily Sadowsky	31
Amy Goltz	11	Michael Fischler	22	Cooper D'Inca	31
Beth Sassower	12	Eric Saleh	24		

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



May ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date	Year
Stan & Karen Baratta	May 1st	19th Anniversary
Steven Graff & Kim Honig	May 6th	29th Anniversary
Michael & Pamela Bogen	May 11th	27th Anniversary
Jennifer & Christopher Brown	May 12th	8th Anniversary
Steve & Judy Sitko	May 24th	32nd Anniversary
Joseph & Susan Saleh	May 27th	23rd Anniversary

* Listings based on Temple records. If your info is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office so we may correct our database.



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TODAH RABBAH - Means Thank You!

Dear Members:

First of all, I want to be sure you know what the word "ONEG" means. It refers to the social hour after Friday night services when we greet one another and enjoy the goodies prepared by the Oneg Committee and the sponsors of that evening. Please join us.

"Thank you" to the following people who sponsored the Onegs during the month of April:

- 4/5: MURIEL ROSENKRANZ in memory of her grandson, ERIC WACHOVSKY and BETTY STALLMAN in memory of her brother, MAX STOLMAN
- 4/12: NADINE FRANKEL in memory of her daughter, KYRA MCCARTHY
- 4/19: SHARI and HOWARD BRODY in memory of SHARI'S grandmother, ANNA JACOBSON SHARON GREEN in memory of her father, JACK KOENIG
- 4/26 SHARRON PARKER in loving memory of her mother, Edna Miller and SHARI BRODY in loving memory of her grandmother, ANNA M. JACOBSON.



THANKS to the above-named Sponsors from a grateful Temple.

We invite you to join this special group of people who helped make our Onegs in April so successful. All you have to do is call ARLA CRANE at (805) 987-2000 and tell her which Friday night you would like to be a sponsor. You will then be asked to bring some of the food or write a check to the Temple for this honor. This is certainly a meaningful way to honor someone or remember the memory of someone who has passed on.

Your Oneg Committee: JOSEPHINE FREIFELD, Oneg Chair, ARLA CRANE, Chair-Volunteer Sponsors (805) 987-2000, NAOMI BRILL, Editor



Daniel Newman Lessler

Pianist
Composer, Conductor, Teacher



Phone: 805-407-5855
dmllessler@gmail.com

Calling All RV'ers/Campers

Lovin' Leveler's is an active Jewish RV/camping club originating out of the North Valley Jewish Community Center in the early 1970's. We still have some original members, from Ventura to Palm Desert including L.A., the San Fernando & Santa Clarita Valleys.

We are mostly seniors in RV's of various sorts enjoying the company of other Jewish people & would welcome new members. We have singles as well as couples & have evolved into an extended family providing support for each other in times of need. We currently number over 50 active member vehicles.



We go out one weekend a month within 2-3 hrs of L.A. plus enjoy a variety of side trips to various locations. Our weekends include a brief Shabbat service on Friday night & Havdallah on Saturday night. We've had Seders in the woods, made Havdallah candles, have annual Hanukkah parties & held Yahzeit minyans when needed. We have short monthly meetings following dinner for 40-50 people!

For more info contact: Freya or Allan Teplinsky (818) 368-3471 freya@gmail.com



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The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Tributes & Contributions

May Members' Yahrzeits

Honorariums & Memorials

In loving memory of his parents, Anna and Michael Brand
Richard & Ellen Brand

In loving memory of Kos Lertzman
Della Carmona

In loving memory of his mother, Doris Sterling, and his stepfather, Morry Sterling
Alan Crane

In loving memory of Joel Zneimer, Ron Fink, and Hyman Fink
Betty Fink

In honor of his mother, Dora Freifield
Max Friefield

In loving memory of her mother, Evelyn Berkman
Andrea Granat

In loving memory of her father, Jack Koenig
Sharon Green

In loving Memory of his father, Allan Kaplan
David Kaplan

In loving memory of their sons Jon David Kerwien and Daniel Joseph Kerwien, and their mother Rose Friedman
John and Beverly Kerwien

In loving memory of her son, Brad King
Sandra King

In loving memory of her mother, Henny Sills
Susan Leifer

In Loving Memory of her husband, Morton Leventhal
Sylvia Leventhal

In honor of Louise and Crandall Jones anniversary
Phyllis Mandel

In honor of Saul & Julia & all the wonderful things they do for our Torah School children
Sharron Parker

In loving memory of her Grandson, Eric Wachovsky.
Muriel Rosenkranz

Honoring Steve Moore's weight loss
Brian & Lisa Sadowsky

In loving memory of his brother in law, George Annes, and his father, Sam Scherer
Bernard Scherer

Albert Schwartz

In Loving memory of his late wife, Carol Sobelman
Darryl Sobelman & Carole Warren

In loving memory of her brother, Max Stolman
Betty Stallman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In loving memory of their mothers, Mildred Gold and Annie Adelson
Robert & Joyce Brown

In loving memory of her father, Harold Manoff
Marcia & Allen Zatkin

In loving memory of her Bubbie, Anna M. Jacobson, and in memory of Harold Manoff, father of Marcia Zatkin and father-in-law of Dr. Allen Zatkin
Shari Brody

In loving memorey of Allyson's mother, and AJ's nana, Donna Gold
Allyson Williams

Special Support Request Donations

Naomi Brill
Joyce & Robert Brown
Della Carmona
Raja Desenberg
Lee Edwards
Richard Erlich
Betty Fink
Joan Frank
Ruth Fridberg
Steve Graff & Kim Honig
Sharron Green
Marilynn & Bruce Hochstadter
Andrea & Richard Huvad
Beverly & John Kerwein
Julia Newman & Saul Lessler

Friday, May 3rd for April 28-May 4 (Iyar 18-24)

Bertie Okun... Grandmother of Kaila Kaden
Louis Kouffman**... Father of Tony Kouffman
Victor Pergament... Father of Harriet Lit
Morry Sterling... Stepfather of Alan Crane
Doris Sterling... Mother of Alan Crane
Toula Pessah**... Mother of Elvira Cabelli
Katherine Skluth... Grandmother of Dana Mascot
Eric Wachovsky... Grandson of Muriel Rosenkranz
Max Stolman... Brother of Betty Stallman
Emanuel Levy... Father of Arlene Bergman
Ruth Wagner... Sister of Joan Frank

Friday, May 10th for May 5-11 (Iyyar 25-Sivan 2)

Irene Newman** ...Mother of Frances Kuznets
Irene Newman** ...Mother of Julia Newman
David Weire ...Father of Renee Stein

Friday, May 17th for May 5-11 (Sivan 3-9)

John Kerwien ...Father of John Kerwien
Aaron Bonderman** ... Friend of Temple Ner Ami
Jacob Lotker ...Grandfather of Michael Lotker
Herbert Pritz ...Grandfather of Danalynn Pritz
Ida Stein ...Mother-In-Law of Renee Stein

Friday, May 24th for May 19-25 (Sivan 10-16)

Barbara Hochstadter ...Wife of Bruce Hochstadter
Robert Moore** ...Father of Steve Moore
Lena Klempner ...Mother of Sarah Brejensky
Celia Valentine ...Mother of Sylvia Leventhal
Judith Kohls ...Mother of Stan Kohls
Herbert Kohls ...Father of Stan Kohls
William Bailess** ...Grandfather of Stacy Lowenschuss
Louis Pomerantz** ...Father of Karen Rosenstein
Edward Harris ...Father of Pamela Bogen

Friday, May 31st for May 26-June 1 (Sivan 17-23)

Henry Nadler ...Father of Clarice Shapiro
Rose Epstein ...Mother-In-Law of Bernice Epstein
Esther Frankel ...Mother of Nadine Frankel
Ethel Huvad ...Mother of Richard Huvad
Maury Zeitz ...Father of Judy Sitko
William Bloom ...Brother of Doris Weinberg
Oscar Shev** ...Husband of Jean Shev
Melvin Metz ...Father of Cathye Clark
Abraham Mandel ...Husband of Phyllis Mandel

Who will say Kaddish for you?

Even though this may not be a reality you are currently faced with, the question is important and one to consider. I encourage you to take a moment and consider life, its great blessings and then, how to keep those memories alive after our time on Earth is done.

Yahrtzeit is a Yiddish word that means "anniversary," and is used specifically to refer to the day on which a person passed away. Yahrtzeit is a time for reflection and introspection. It is customary to think about the best values that your relative exemplified in his or her life.

Consider reserving a plaque in our sanctuary on the Yolanda Cramer Memorial Board so that we can honor those memories during the time of Yahrtzeit. Your donation to reserve a plaque, for your family member or even for yourself, is a great mitzvah of memory and saves the remaining family members from having one more thing to think about during a difficult time.

The reduced suggested donation amount of \$325 is being honored through May 31. Your contribution also counts towards your donor circle funds. For more information, please contact the temple office.

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

z"l In blessed memory.

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 \$360.00 per plaque beginning in May; available now for \$325.

Note: The above listings cover honorarium, tribute, and fund donations received between March 20th and April 21st.

TORAH SCHOOL CALENDAR MAY

- Fri 3 Graduating Senior Shabbat led by Ner Ami Teens
- Sat 4 Shabbat service (10:00 a.m.)
- Mon 6 Regular session
- Fri 10 Shabbat service led by the 1st-3rd Grade class
- Sat 11 Bar Mitzvah - David Schneider
- Mon 13 Regular session
- Wed 15 Regular session
- Sat 18 Bar Mitzvah - Jackson Kamola
- Mon 20 Regular session
Junior Youth Group 6:15 - 7:30
- Wed 22 Regular session
- Fri 24 Tot Shabbat (5:30). Family Dinner 6:15, Family Service 7:00
- Mon 27 NO TORAH SCHOOL (Memorial Day)
- Wed 29 ALL SCHOOL PARTY (Wednesday)
TEACHER APPRECIATION

TEEN CONNECTION CALENDAR MAY

- Fri 3 Graduating Seniors Shabbat
- Mon 6 OLAM (Including 8th graders)
- Mon 13 NAUTY
- Fri 17 NFTY Spring Kallah
- Mon 20 NAUTY
- Mon 27 NO SESSION (Memorial Day)
- Wed 29 ALL SCHOOL PARTY
Teacher Appreciation



ORT has a Treat for You!

On May 23, at our regular general meeting, we will have as our guests the **Ukulele Strummers Band of Camarillo**. The band plays a variety of music from the Hawaiian Islands and Polynesia. Our luncheon will be barbecued chicken, Hawaiian style and is delicious. If you have an Island dress or muumuu, and feel in the mood, wear it to the meeting. Sway to the music and the mild spring breezes. If you don't want to dress up, that's O.K. too. Just be there and enjoy the fun. There are 15 - 19 members in the band. They dress up, do Hula dances, sing solos and group arrangements. See you all there.

- Shirley Law

April Outside Organization Meetings

CITY OF HOPE

Board Meeting, Mon. 5/27 9:30am
Regular Meeting, Mon. 5/13, 12:30 pm
Joan Rines, Co-President - 805-987-2147
Al Schwartz, Co-President - 805-482-4299



ORT

Board Meeting- Thursday, May 2nd - 10am
General Mtg. (See above) Thursday, May 23rd-Noon
To RSVP for lunch call Silvia Lippe at 805-987-4477
For info call Shirley Law, 805-987-5468 or
President, Cynita Urbach 805-419-4403

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Tues. Men & Womens Meeting 7-8:15 pm
Wed. Men & Womens Meeting 7-8:15pm
Sat. Men & Womens Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm
Sunday (Men only) 7-8 am

TEMPLE NER AMI - May 2013

28 Lag B'Omer & Habitat for Humanity	29 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	May 1 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah Schil - PreK, K, 1st-3rd, 5th-	2 10 ORT Board Meeting	3 7:23p Candle lighting 7:30p Shabbat Service	4 9 Torah Study Class 10 Shabbat Morning Service 7:30p Donor Circle Haddalah Celebration
5 Cinco de Mayo	6 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	8 Yom Yeaustalayim 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah Schil - PreK, K, 1st-3rd, 5th- 7p Board of Directors Meeting	9 5p Bar Mitzvah Rehearsal - Schneider	10 Rosh Chodesh Sivan 7:29p Candle lighting 7:30p Birthday/Anniversary Shabbat with	11 9 Torah Study Class 4p David Schneider Bar Mitzvah
12 Mother's Day	13 12:30p City of Hope Regular Meeting 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Teen Connection	15 Shavout I 10 Yzkor & Baby Blessing Service 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah Schil - PreK, K, 1st-3rd, 5th- 6:15p Torah School Parent Mtg.	16 Shavout II 5p Bar Mitzvah Rehearsal - Kamola 7p JFS Board Meeting	17 7:30p MUSICAL Shabbat Service 7:34p Candle lighting	18 9 Torah Study Class 10 Jackson Kamola Bar Mitzvah
19	20 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	22 7p Adult Ed. God-Wrestling: Philo and M	23 12p ORT General Meeting 7p Sisterhood Meeting	24 5:30p Tot Shabbat Program 6p Bring Your Own Dinner 7p Graduating Seniors Shabbat Service 7:39p Candle lighting	25 9 Torah Study Class
26	27 Memorial Day No Torah School Today OFFICE CLOSED - HOLIDAY 9:30 City of Hope Board Mtg.	29 Join F. Kennedy's Birthday Last Day of Torah School 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Year End Torah School Party	30 5p Bar Mitzvah Rehearsal - Dinca	31 6p Wine & Cheese and schmoozing 7p Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:44p Candle lighting	Jun 1 9 Torah Study Class 10 Cooper Dinca Bar Mitzvah 10 Shabbat Morning Service

Go to www.TempleNerAmi.org for the latest Calendar Information!



SAVE THE DATE!

Oy Veygas Casino Night Annual Fundraiser - Oct. 12, 2013

We're looking for sponsors and donations of goods and services to be utilized as prizes. If you can assist, please contact OyVeygas@TempleNerAmi.org





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TEMPLE NER AMI Appreciates Your Continued Support!

If you would like to make a contribution, the following funds are available. All donations are graciously accepted. The Temple's appreciation of your donation of **\$36** or more will be published in the following month's **MEGILLAH**:

- _____ Temple General Fund
- _____ Temple Building Fund
- _____ Newman Scholarship Fund
- _____ Irv Dubin Teen Scholarship Fund
- _____ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- _____ Temple Music Fund
- _____ Art Fund
- _____ Sigmund Jaffe Memorial Library Fund
- _____ Temple Prayer Book Fund
- _____ Social Action Fund
- _____ Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

From: _____

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

Submission date for all material:
15th of each month