TEMPLE NER AMI

MEGILLAH

SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5771 ISSUE 44 - JULY 2011

Town Hall Meeting Slated for July 13th

July is a time for barbeques, hiking, and family. It's also the month where Temple Ner Ami starts a new fiscal year.

Traditionally, we've had our annual meeting for members in July, immediately prior to electing new board members and having our first board meeting of the fiscal year. This year, we've decided to postpone our annual meeting to August 10th, and call a special Town Hall Meeting on July 13th at 7pm. The purpose of this Town Hall Meeting is to address our currently difficult financial picture, while seeking to meet the expressed desires of our congregation and larger Jewish community.

Board members will be present to discuss member concerns and solutions, so you are strongly encouraged to attend and participate. We hope you've not just received -- but reviewed -- your Invitation for Membership. Articulating our Principles Underlying Temple Ner Ami's Membership Dues is a critical first step in helping members understand why it's important to more vigorously support our temple moving forward.

After your review, we hope you'll consider taking advantage of the 5% discount with your annual contribution on or before 7/15/11. Others already have, so we hope to add your name to the list. If you prefer, then the alternative monthly terms provides many members an opportunity to make ongoing dues easier to plan for and accomplish.



Church/Temple
Electronic eWaste
Recycling Event
July 9th, 9 AM-1 PM
See Page 20



Annual Members Meeting & Election August 10th, 7 PM See Page 17

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Arla Crane
Gary Goltz
Marc Grossmann
Dale Jacobs
Gary Lieb
Harriet Lit
Steve Moore
Dennis Sookikian
Ann Levin-Sookikian
Lew Stone
Joan Stone

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Choosing Our Future Together *by Dan Harris*

Twelve months ago, Temple Ner Ami saved itself by displaying a unity

of vision born of financial emergency. The move to our present location – the Temple on Temple – not only saved money, but was a proud and public proclamation of solidarity with our uniquely Jewish mission in Ventura County.

This next fiscal year, the Board and Rabbi Mike agreed to move forward with his part-time services in a year of transition, allowing the temple to initiate a measured, yearlong search process for its next rabbi. Rabbi Mike's major duties this year will include conducting all High Holy Day services, 33 Friday night Shabbat services, (including those held in celebration of major Jewish holidays), unlimited life cycle events for members, and chaplaincy support during specified office hours and hospital visits.

It is no mystery that the Board's decision that it could not afford to retain the full-time rabbinical services of Rabbi Mike was painful, both personally for all individual Board members and for Rabbi Mike.

Larry Kaufman, who is a past president at another temple, recently articulated a core financial truth for all congregations: "harmony is easy when things are stable. Conflicts naturally arise in congregations over two issues: instituting change and balancing budgets. The emotional intensity of these issues increases exponentially as time passes with no financial stability in sight."

The decisions reached by our Board are the result of many – often arduous – hours of meetings and discussions that cut through generational and demographic differences, and ultimately found each Board member reaching the decision that he or she felt is in the best interests of our temple at this time.

The rabbinical services agreement now reached with Rabbi Mike consolidates and confirms everyone's determination to move forward together.

We are blessed by the wise spiritual guidance of Rabbi Mike Lotker. His deep

scholarly love of Judaism is matched only by his love of the Jewish people here at Temple Ner Ami, as well as in our Ventura County community. During the coming months, we will continue to express to Rabbi Mike all he has meant to us, even as we plan for the next chapter of our journey together.

The agreement reached may cause some members to feel doubt as to our temple's ability and/or willpower to meet its most pressing financial challenges. The agreement may also cause some members to feel anxious about the Board's capacity to articulate a compelling vision that speaks to the broad community of its uniquely Jewish mission in Ventura County. Some may also question the sensitivity of the Board's determination to chart this course after Rabbi Mike and Sonia, his wife, moved to our community in Camarillo.

These feelings of doubt and anxiety are a natural outgrowth of the years of Rabbi Mike's wise spiritual leadership at Temple Ner Ami, and the strength it has and will continue to provide our community. Indeed, any feelings of doubt and anxiety are a natural outgrowth in these global times of change and uncertainty. Some see it as an exciting opportunity to help shape a hopeful future, but many see it as just plain murky and unsettling.

Dr. Dean Ornish likes to say that "People don't resist change, they resist being changed." The reason his observation makes sense is because we all preserve our self-respect and autonomy even when we're struggling with the most intractable, difficult, emotionally charged situations, including (and maybe most especially) those involving shrinking income and mounting debt. Our resistance to change is a natural self-defense against the condescending stance of those who might assume the knowledge and authority to goad -- a "just do it, because I say so, and it's good for you" type of attitude.

I'd like to state plainly and clearly that I believe Temple Ner Ami has a great future. **Why? That's easy.** I look at the members

who have served and will continue to serve capably and caringly on the Board as a reflection of our entire community. Each brings his or her own unique skills and perspectives to the table, and shares them with the group unflinchingly. The atmosphere – the culture – this past year on the Board has been incredibly positive, even in the most difficult of moments, like when money is being discussed.

If the Board can do it, then our members can do it. I don't believe it as a matter of authority, but as a matter of faith that our members will inspire us today -- and future generations of Jews in Ventura County -- by the conscious decision to move forward together. I believe our members will continue to find and articulate a sense of hope in our future, which in turn will motivate greater personal commitments of time, energy, and financial resources -- all of which are now needed to help Temple Ner Ami not just survive, but thrive.

As the new URJ President, Rabbi Richard Jacobs noted in his acceptance speech: "In [last] week's Torah portion, *Shelach Lecha*, scouts are sent to spy the land of Israel to see what awaits the Jewish people on their journey. Ten of those scouts come back overwhelmed by the frightening realities our people will be forced to confront. Two of those scouts, Joshua and Caleb, return brimming with optimism and hope. All of the scouts saw the same terrain, but their responses could not be more different."

To paraphrase Rabbi Jacobs, anyone with eyes open can see the challenges now existing at Temple Ner Ami, but simultaneously, I am buoyed by a sense of possibility this unique moment in our history provides us together. That hope finds articulation in the caring efforts of those on the Board, our members at large, and devoted professional staff.

Perhaps this is as much a matter of belief as it is fact, but there are times when belief is more relevant than fact. Learning from one of our Rabbi Mike's most powerful statements regarding his decision to believe in God, we Jews must all choose to believe - and commit to live our lives inspired by that belief through acts of human kindness -- or the alternative is unacceptable.

Rabbi Lotker to Serve Temple Ner Ami Another Year



Rabbi Mike Lotker and Temple Ner Ami's Board of Directors are pleased to announce they have worked successfully together to achieve a new contract for part-time rabbinical services in fiscal year 2011/2012.

In a nutshell, the Rabbi will conduct:

- All High Holy Day services.
- 33 Friday night Shabbat services (including those held in celebration of all major Jewish holidays).
- Unlimited life cycle events for members.
- Chaplaincy support during specified office hours and hospital visits.

"The Board feels fortunate that we're retaining Rabbi Lotker at a level that helps preserve continuity of rabbinical service to our members, while recognizing our obligation to continually stabilize our financial status," said Dan Harris, President of the Board of Directors.

Dan added, "I was especially happy to spend time speaking with many members at large these last few weeks. I know the Board recognizes and is grateful to all those who rose to the challenge of making it all happen."

Rabbi Mike stated, "I look forward to helping our local Jewish community maintain its critical spiritual role in this important transition year."

Volunteers Needed for Mitzvah Day!

We are looking forward to a *Mitzvah Day,* which will take place on Sunday, July 17th. Ann Burke, who is our Sisterhood Vice President and Program Chairwoman, is planning our Temple and community support day.

What is a Mitzvah Day, you ask? It is a time set aside to do good and helpful things for our Temple and others in our community.

What do we do? Some people will work on sewing tote bags for kids who are in transit on their way to foster care. Others may knit squares to be put together to make blankets to go to the needy. Some folks will work on the Rain Project in the community, while others may paint walls that are in need of

freshening. There are always things that need a little attention around the Temple...There is plenty to do to help ourselves and others.

How can I help? Ann Burke is in charge of this annual Mitzvah Project and will have the information that you need. It may start earlier at other locations, but it is scheduled between 2 and 5 here at the Temple. Look for more details in the weekly email activities Blast that is sent to you.

You can put Sunday, July 17th on your calendar. Your volunteer help will be a mitzvah!

Shari Brody & Sonia Lotker, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

MOVIE NIGHT - JULY 23, 6:30 PM

Steven Speilberg's "An American Tail"

This month's selection will be enjoyed by movie lovers of all ages! Ex-Disney animator Don Bluth brings us a tail (sorry, TALE!) of the Russian-Jewish Mousekewitz (!) mouse family, who, like all of the other mice in late 1800's Russia, want to escape from the cats (think Cossacks). They dream of a land known as America, where there are, allegedly, no cats. Traveling to Germany, (a dangerous undertaking for all immigrants) they board a ship bound for America.

However, during a violent storm, little Fievel Mousekewitz (voiced by Phillip Glasser) becomes separated from his parents and sisters. Fortunately for Fievel he was is saved from drowning by being ensconced within a bottle, which quite by chance floats to New

Meet Holocaust Survivor and Author Charles Pierce & his wife Libby

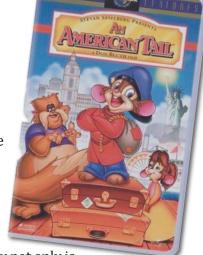
BOOKW RM

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At the
TEMPLE NER AMI
JUNE 27TH, 2011
7:00 p.m.

515 Temple Ave.
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 388-3824

Diease visit www.thesurvivalstation.com
or you can also find it locally at
Mrs. Figs Bookworm is located at 93 East Daily Drive, Camarillo, 93010 Phone 482-1384



York, USA. Unfortunately not only is

America very big, but it -- well, let's just say that for all mice concerned it's not all it was cracked up to be presents other anti-mice and anti-immigrant difficulties.

With the help of friends such as Tony Toponi (voiced by Pat Musick) and Tiger (Dom DeLuise), Fievel goes on a mammoth quest to become reunited with his family.

Although a sentimental story, produced by Produced Steven Spielberger, it is a little on the sentimental side, it does have a certain charm, which is further helped by James Horner's it musical score, as well as including the wonderful song 'Somewhere Out There' which has since become a favorite duet of all time. Some adults may not like the sentimentality, It is a sentimental story, but rewarding, but stick with it, and you'll be rewarded with a gem, particularly if watching particularly if watched with either the young or the young-at-heart.



TODAH RABBAH - Means Thank You!

Message from Naomi Brill, Oneg Chair

How would you like to see your name in print right here in your Temple's newsletter? Just offer to be one of the sponsors of an Oneg and I promise to print your name in the **MEGILLAH!**

All you have to do is call me at (805) 388-8511 and tell me on what Friday night you wish to sponsor an Oneg and whether it is to honor someone or

in memory of one of your loved ones. You can either buy some of the goodies, bake them yourself, or write a check and I'll do the baking or shopping for you. Call me and I'll give you even more particulars regarding this easy way for you to help your Temple function.

The members who graciously sponsored an Oneg during the month of June were:

Shari & Howard Brody in honor of their granddaughter Emily Elizabeth Brody's Bat Mitzvah.

Arla & Jay Crane in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary.

Sarah & Sol Brejensky in memory of Sarah's Mother, Lena Klempner, and Sarah's 92nd birthday.

Fayrose Gordon in memory of her husband, Harold Gordon.

Irv Goldman in memory of his wife, Faith Goldman.

Please join them by sponsoring an Oneg soon!



New Advertiser - Jeff Baum!

This issue we welcome Jeff Baum, a friend of Sharron Parker's to the *MEGILLAH*. He began his career in the early 1990's with what is today one of the largest private mortgage banking firms in Southern California, CFC Mortgage Bankers.

Jeff is a Broker Associate. He is both federally and state licensed, and is a seasoned mortgage planner.

He has provided his mortgage clientele, premier realtors, attorneys, CPA's, financial planners and business managers, with his full knowledge of today's intricacies in mortgage lending.

Says Jeff, "After almost 20 Years of providing superb mortgages for my clients, I continue to value greatly the trust I have earned with my clients and referral partners. I absolutely love to arm them with the best and most current information so as to make the most advantageous mortgage decisions for their future."



Cheder Chappenings by Julia Newman

Shalom Haverim,

Every year I choose a single word as our theme for the school year. Two years ago the word was "Hope" and it reflected the message that even with the challenges and

struggles that much of the world was experiencing and that had touched our own Congregation, even then we are a people and a community of hope. It was a good word to get us through some tough times, as hope had lead us to last year's word, "Opportunity."

A year ago we opened a new chapter in Temple Ner Ami's history. That opportunity put into place all of the themes of past years: Energy. Connection. Growth. It was a very exciting, albeit scary time for us. We only moved a mile away from our old home on Calle Tesoro to Temple Avenue—but the distance sometimes seemed immeasurable.

We had our doubts. Our fears. What would happen? Would the Church families like us? Would we like them? Would we work out all of the logistics of scheduling and sharing space? What would the community-at-large think of our new venture— Christians and Jews under one roof?

Well, a year has passed. "Opportunity." Was our theme for the year a good one or just a platitude?

Did we take advantage of all that was available to us? Did we avail ourselves of the opportunities that we were given?

In a word YES! We have classrooms. Real-live classrooms (not room-dividers, and books & supplies in wheelie carts). Cantor Karen, who had never unpacked all of her books in over 10 years, now has her own room, with cabinets and bookshelves and a guarantee that this room will remain hers. We have a Teen Lounge—a youth room that is totally dedicated to our teens—with couches and a TV. Okay, Lisa, our student Rabbi, has to share the room—but yes, she has her own office, too. Thanks to the Church of Christ, we have a wonderful preschool classroom, with murals on the wall and playthings for young children. We have a wonderful Library and Librarian, Phyllis. We have a very large Resource room—(which

I promise, C of C, we will clean this summer[©]). We have an enclosed grass area—so our youngest children can safely play outside. We can have outdoor Shabbat services and parties and picnics and not have to go to a neighborhood park.

For the first time ever, the School has its own office—with a computer and supplies readily available. Parents and kids can actually sit and talk with me—and not have to stand in a hallway or outside the building to have a private chat.

And how about the bathrooms and the drinking fountain? And the basketball court? And our own flower garden?

And the sense of peace and awe in the Sanctuary as we look at our Ark on the Bimah and it looks like it was built to be here.

Hope lead us to Opportunity and to our new word for next year, "Gratitude." We need to be grateful for what we have been given and we need to take advantage of everything that has been offered to us.

Significant challenges still lie ahead of us. On many fronts we are still struggling but I feel confident that we will overcome them.

This is a good time for me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the teachers and youth advisors, to Rabbi Mike and Student Rabbi Lisa, to Mark Malloy and Kaila Kaden, to the Tresidents and the Board of Directors, to Arla Crane, and Alonso Cervantes. My heart is always full of gratitude to the Congregation of Ner Ami and to the parents and especially the kids of our school. And this year I am most grateful for the Camarillo Church of Christ, for their gracious welcoming and sharing of their home with us.

Above all, I thank God that all of you are in my life. Have a wonderful Summer. See you in September!

Iulia

PS - Just found out Temple Ner Ami has been fully funded on our grant requests from Jewish Federation of Ventura County—an endorsement of their appreciation of what we have accomplished.



Your Dedicated Board of Directors.... by Sarene Wallace, Executive Leadership Team

Do you know who's on the Temple Ner Ami board? (We're all listed on the masthead on page 1.) Our board is comprised

of a diverse group of dedicated volunteers. We represent a cross-section of our Temple community in terms of age, interests and backgrounds. As a team, we work to move the Temple forward, putting our own desires second to what we feel is best for the Temple. We've taken on some big issues this year to work through: the rabbi's contract, dues, and our 2011-12 budget. This board of devoted volunteers rolled up its shirtsleeves and invested the time and energy to make sure our decisions were the best possible for our congregation.

You may not agree with all our decisions, but know that every issue was looked at as thoroughly as possible, dissected and mulled over. There was never a time when the board took the easy way out, though it was tempting as meetings that started at 7 p.m. crept toward 11 p.m. We even had

board members join us by phone from the Midwest during their family visits, just so that they could be part of the decision-making process. (Now that's dedication!)

Throughout this year, I have been impressed with the board's level of commitment and insistence on taking the time needed to make an informed choice. Arla, Shari, Harriet, Joan, Lew, Gary L., Dan, Nadine, Gary G., Dale, Marc, Steve, Ann and Dennis --thank you all. And thank you, Rabbi Mike, our ex officio board member and great resource for us. Temple Ner Ami is a vital spiritual home for our members because we have you all guiding our way.

Ann and Dennis and Shari, thank you for your years as board members. Though you won't be on the board anymore, I know you'll still be involved and looking after our Temple.

And a big 'thank you' to Joan Taubman and Keith Elliot, both of whom have asked for your consideration to be our newest board members. I hope you get as much fulfillment and joy out of being a board member as I have.



Girl Talk

A Pilot Program Funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation

We're very excited to announce that we have a new program that we're offering this summer for 7th & 8th grade girls. Under the guidance of a professional, *Girl Talk* offers a safe setting for young adolescents. The focus of the group is social skills and problem solving and the issues that attend the life of a young teenage girl. An overriding goal is that the girls feel comfortable and confident that someone is listening to them and that peers and a compassionate, professional adult understand them. The long-term goal is to

develop a stronger sense of Jewish identity, as well as learning to deal with many of the issues that teens face.

Girl Talk meets on Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1:00 through August 9th.

There is no charge for the program and it is open to all 7^{th} & 8^{th} grade girls.

For more information, please contact Julia Newman: 388-3824, or via eMail at educator@templenerami.org.

Tikkun Olam: הַּקּוֹן הַעּוֹלָם

Food of the Month: CRACKERS

We would appreciate donations of: all kinds of crackers including graham crackes, saltine crachers, crackers with cheese, and crackers that would taste great with cheese. Thanks for all of your generous food contributions for the Somis Pantry. New volunteers are also appreciated at our monthly distribution site. Please contact Julia Newman for more information.



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, 805-484-9119



Empty Nesters Havurah *by Arla Crane*

The **Empty Nesters Havurah** of Temple Ner Ami had its monthly meeting, planned by Gail and Larry Kleinman. The event began with "An afternoon with

Harry" at the Skirball Cultural Center at 2:30 on June 12, 2011. The Nesters learned about the life and times of Harry Houdini and many other Jewish magicians in 20th Century America. The group toured other exhibits as well then traveled to Vitello's Restaurant at 3316 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard, in Thousand Oaks, for a wonderful Italian Dinner.

This Havurah was started by Allen and Marcia Zatkin and includes Howard and Shari Brody, Jay and Arla Crane, Barbara and Mark Finsten, Dalya Dektor, Diane and Julius Hirsch, Lewis and Terri Kanter, Gail and Larry Kleinman, Larry and Bonnie Masculine, David and Carole Minkin, and Darryl and Carole Sobelman. Its goal is to build strong Jewish ties of friendship. Each month one member or member couple will plan an event of interest. These have included movies, dinners, pot lucks, outings, and picnics in the park. In addition, the Empty Nesters support Temple functions, host Onegs as a group, and participate in a variety of Tikkun Olam in the Community.



Pictured from left to right: Jay and Arla Crane, Darryl and Carole Sobelman, David Minkin, Gail and Larry Kleinman, and Terri and Lewis Kanter.

Anniversary Gala A Grand Success

by Arla Crane

Temple Ner Ami celebrated its first anniversary as the "Temple on Temple Avenue" with an outstanding gala on Sunday, June 5th. The event began with Israeli Dancing led by professional dancer **Janie Bernal**. Seniors, juniors, and "Inbetweeners" got a chance to kick up their heels in celebration. Next, we were led in prayer and praise by **Rabbi Mike**. Guests shared their favorite memories of the past year. And our brotherhood turned our dance floor into an elegant dining hall ready for marvelous barbeque cuisine provided by **Steven Moore**.

The evening was a grand success. We need to thank our special leaders for making the celebration such a memorable evening. Our chef, Steven Moore, created an outstanding meal. Thank you Steve – you are the best. **Alan Treitman,** your culinary talents are beyond compare. You two gentleman are masters! Thanks are also due to their helpers: **Jay Crane, Dan Harris, and Gary Goltz.** Wow, how lucky we are to have had all of you working together...next time we will wait to eat until you can come in and share the evening meal with us!

Praise and thanks also goes to our inside crew: Shari Brody, Sharon Green, and Annelies Regen as ticket takers and sellers; Ann Burke, Elvira Cabelli, Gina Burstein, Carole and Darryl Sobelman, and yours truly, Arla Crane as Table Captains. Thank you also for all the ladies who came early to create our

photo albums which served as table decorations and all the gentlemen and ladies who moved the tables and chairs in place for dinner. The clean-up crew was awesome as well. Everyone pitched in and many people, in addition to our table captains, took are recyclable dishes home to wash along with the linens. What a team effort! The dishes and linens can be returned as soon as you are done...and thank you *Blue Fairies* for stepping up to the plate and washing the plates and linens. Thank you **Arlene Cohen** for agreeing to store all the recyclable dishes in your home for future use. The Earth says thank you also!

Finally, the anniversary celebration would not have happened without the outstanding work of **Mark Malloy**. He took meticulous notes on all reservations: Who had paid, who needed to pay, who might come or might not come, who had received their tickets and who needed to get their tickets at the door, and who needed a special meal.

Any mere mortal would have had a major Tylenol moment with even half of the above "to-do" items. Mark is our resident Superman. Let us also remember that Mark volunteered to give up a major portion of his Shabbat day to come and help make our day special. He was the first person on the scene and the last person to leave the building. Cookies and kudos are in order by all of us who enjoyed this wonderful day.













Library News by Phyllis Mandel

I want to thank the members of the Temple who

donated books and tapes to the Library this

past year. Your donated books were integrated into the Library classification system and shelved.

Upon looking through the sign-out pages, I saw that the books borrowed were from many different categories: Israel, History, The Holocaust, Jewish Ethics, Jewish Literature, Prayer, Novels, etc.

The Board of Temple Ner Ami was able to obtain bookshelves from Borders bookstore before they closed their store in Ventura. The cases are sturdy and the

shelves will be up to the ceiling. The bookshelves will be installed during the summer months.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for obtaining the much needed bookshelves. The Library is so much a part of the Temple.



MOVIE NIGHT JUNE 25TH - 6:30 PM

In **BEE SEASON**, a wife and mother begins a downward emotional spiral, as her husband avoids their collapsing marriage by immersing himself in his 11-year-old daughter's quest to become a spelling bee champion.

This movie, fascinating in its own right, is even more interesting because of its many Kabbalistic overtones.

New MEGILLAH Advertiser - Alice Babich

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." – Mark Twain

While Alice and her husband Jim are fairly new members here at the Temple, she's no rookie when it comes to the travel business. Alice is the expert you deserve to help you with your vacation dreams. She has been in the travel industry for twenty years and provides travel agent services for River Cruises, Sea Cruises, Vacation Packages to Hawaii and the South Pacific, and any other destinations you may be dreaming about.





Haddassah News by Natalie Rosen

The Pleasant Valley Chapter of Hadassah held their annual Installation & Dessert Luncheon on Monday June 6th at Temple Ner Ami. Installed as Co-Presidents

were Judy Meisels and Roberta Weinstein.

Beautiful fruit trays and homemade desserts were featured. Lisa Berson from the Los Angeles office of Hadassah did a delightful installation

ceremony. Wendy Hersch entertained with her acoustic guitar and lovely voice. A great afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Please join us at our next meeting on August 1st at the temple at 12:30 P.M. Rabbi Mike Lotker will be our featured speaker.





*SISTERS IN DA' HOOD" News

The Sisterhood of Temple Ner Ami officers were installed at the Volunteer Appreciation Shabbat Service that was held on Friday, June 24 at 7:30. The officers for 2011-2012 year are:

Co-Presidents: Sonia Lotker & Shari Brody

Vice-President/Programs: Ann Burke

Corresponding Secretary/Onegs: Naomi Brill

Recording Secretary: Elvira Cabelli

Treasurers: Annelies Regen & Kaila Kaden

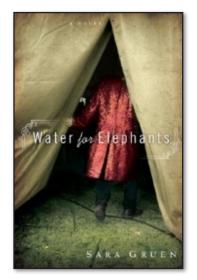
Publicity: Arla Crane

Be among the first 25 women to pay for your Sisterhood membership for the new year and save \$5.00! Sisters, write your checks! Dues for the new year will be \$30.00. So save money by joining early at \$25.00. Your membership is appreciated and greatly needed! We want to be able to continue to offer exciting events and programs at the Temple such as Sex in the Bible & Chocolate Tasting, Mimouna with Exotic dancer, etc.

Our fundraising and dues collection are used to support our Torah School. The first member to pay her dues is Carole Westwood. Thanks, Carole!

Shari Brody & Sonia Lotker Sisterhood Co-Presidents

.



EAGER READERS BOOK CLUB

Meets Tuesday, July 12th, 10:30 AM

July Selection for Discussion: Water for Elephants

Water for Elephants has been lauded as a "great pick for summer", but this book is so much more. It has a depth and a substance to it that you don't usually find in your typical "beach read". It's obvious that the author did her research into the time period (post-Depression America), and the subject matter (traveling circuses). According to the author's note at the end of the book, many of the compelling anecdotes in the story were based upon real events, culled from the diaries and personal histories of old-time circus performers. As a result, Water for Elephants is a novel that boasts the rare combination of being both entertaining and informative.

The main character is a cantankerous, still-sharp 93-year-old man, and his frustration at being trapped in an old man's body is palpable. The story of his incredible life and adventures with the Benzini Brothers circus unfolds in a way that is emotionally wrenching, and yet flashes of good humor pervade throughout. The characters are richly drawn, and even the animals are given complex personalities that make them a pivotal part of the story. There is something in the novel for everyone: it is equal parts adventure, mystery, fictional memoir, love story, and historical account.

For more information on this book or the book club in general, please call Jean Shev.





June 28th - August 12th Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Events begin after 1:00 PM You can sign up for a week at a time.

Contact Julia at:

educator@templenerami.org

for a copy of the pamphlet with the full schedule. This program is sponsored by a grant from the Jewish Federation.

Some scholarships are available!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Arthur Titen	Sunday	July 3	Judi Slapin	Wed.	July 20
Allan Sadowsky	Tuesday	July 5	Ruth Fridberg	Friday	July 22
Kim Honig	Thursday	July 7	Marlene Votion	Friday	July 22
Keith Elliott	Friday	July 8	Arlene Needham	Saturday	July 23
Elva Levine	Friday	July 8	Charlotte Markus	Sunday	July 24
Joseph Saleh	Friday	July 8	Dr. Maynard Belzer	Monday	July 25
Lewis Stone	Friday	July 8	Jim Babich	Tuesday	July 26
Kenneth Wilson	Friday	July 8	Marvin Krantz	Thursday	July 28
Joyce Lieberman	Thursday	July 14	Arlene Bergman	Friday	July 29
Harriet Lit	Thursday	July 14	Mark Finsten	Friday	July 29
Heather Moch	Sunday	July 17	Shlomo Kreitzer	Friday	July 29
Marilyn Seiden	Tuesday	July 19			

Dedicated Beth Shalom Lawn Section



X PERSONAL CHOICES

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

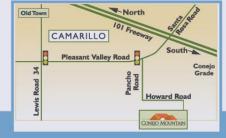


Trust our professional staff to handle all the details with respect and tradition. Alan Ducker, Advance Planning Specialist, direct: 805-258-3697



24 hrs. 805-482-1959 2052 Howard Road Camarillo, CA 93012 www.conejomountain.com





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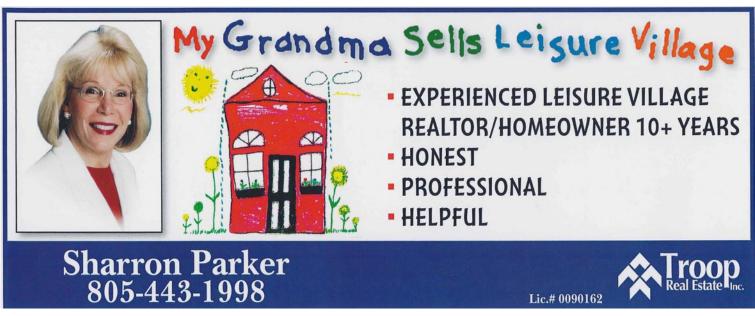
^{*} This table is based on Temple records. If your information is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Dale & Roberta Jacobs	Saturday	July 9, 2011	39th
Seymour & Harriette Heiss	Monday	July 11, 2011	63rd
Sy & Isabel Blau	Thursday	July 14, 2011	54th
Walter & Gina Burstein	Friday	July 15, 2011	22nd
Lawrence & Gail Kleinman	Monday	July 18, 2011	44th
Alec & Cheri Kurman	Wednesday	July 27, 2011	20th
Daniel & Mary Harris	Friday	July 29, 2011	16th

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







Why Our URJ Membership Matters

Article reprinted with permission from Annette Powers (apowers@urj.org)

Just a few days ago, in New York City, the Union for Reform Judaism's Board of Trustees unanimously and enthusiastically elected Rabbi Richard Jacobs to serve as its next President. Only the fourth person to hold the office since its creation in 1943, Jacobs follows Rabbis Maurice Eisendrath, Alexander Schindler and Eric Yoffie. Rabbi Jacobs currently serves as Senior Rabbi at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY, and will assume the URJ Presidency in 2012.

Rabbi Jacobs told the board, "I became a rabbi almost 30 years ago to serve God and the Jewish people wherever I could do the most good. I've loved my years serving two amazing congregations first in Brooklyn Heights and for the past nineteen years at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York." He continued, "As I prepare to leave the congregational rabbinate, I believe more than ever that vibrant synagogues are the key to the Jewish future. I will be the first URJ President who has spent decades as a congregational rabbi; synagogues are what I know and love."

"Today marks a new beginning for the URJ," said Chairman Peter Weidhorn. "With Rick's extensive work on synagogue transformation and his remarkable success as a congregational rabbi, I am excited by the promise that Rabbi Jacobs represents to support congregations in their sacred work."

Current URJ President Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie remarked, "There were, to be sure, many fine candidates, but the selection of Rabbi Jacobs as the next President of the Union was an extraordinary and an inspired choice, and one that has been greeted with acclaim throughout our Movement...Rabbi Jacobs is dynamic and articulate -- a great leader who takes Torah seriously, speaks from our tradition with authority, and has been endlessly creative in applying it to the circumstances of our time."

"Rick transformed what was already a leading congregation into a community of lifelong learners," said Presidential Nomination Committee Chair Robert Heller. "In Rick Jacobs we have a leader who will work with us to envision things that never were and help us build the collaborative teams we need to make them real." In his acceptance remarks, Rabbi Jacobs said about moving into the position at this time, "Everywhere we look, there are dramatic challenges facing our people; yet each is a phenomenal opportunity to revitalize Jewish life. Only very rarely has Jewish history known an era of so much creativity or innovation; no previous generation has possessed our resources and potential...This moment in Jewish history demands bold thinking with big ideas; this is not a time for staying the course. It's time to reinvent the architecture of Jewish life."

During the coming year, Rabbi Jacobs will spend time transitioning from his pulpit position to the presidency of the URJ. He has asked Rabbi Jonah Pesner to serve as Transition Director. Pesner, who founded and directs the URJ's groundbreaking Just Congregations initiative, will join Rabbi Jacobs as well as Rabbi Dan Freelander in the senior leadership of the Union.

"The transition will allow Rabbi Jacobs to continue the process of re-examining the organization, which has been underway with URJ stakeholders including congregational leadership, URJ lay leaders, URJ staff and Reform movement organizational partners," Rabbi Pesner said. He also noted that "Rabbi Jacobs will engage experts in organizational and congregational life from the larger Jewish and non-Jewish communities as well as Jewish thinkers and philanthropic leaders to work with him in his efforts to strengthen and grow the Reform Jewish Movement."

As Rabbi Jacobs winds down his responsibilities with Westchester Reform Temple, he also will step down from his involvement in other organizations, boards and advisory committees during the first years of his Presidency in order to focus his energies on the task ahead of him. Additionally, as President of the URJ, he will assume many new official posts on Jewish communal organizations including the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, among others. Rabbi Jacobs will join Rabbi Yoffie in the campaign to make youth engagement a key priority for the Reform Movement and its 900 congregations. Their efforts aim to engage a large majority of post bar/bat mitzvah teens and their families in Jewish living and learning.

Rabbi Jacobs closed his remarks to the URJ Board this morning with his vision for the Reform Movement in the 21st century: "In twenty-five years, I see our Movement flourishing with a wide network of energetic religious communities of depth and passion stretching throughout the Jewish world. From the ranks of the unaffiliated and the uninspired, they will flock to our inclusive religious communities that are serious about learning, spirituality, tikkun olam, ahavut yisrael, and community. Together we will catalyze innovation and excellence so that our expression of Judaism will attract the widest cross section of 21st century Jews and seekers who have yet to find their faith. Congregations with purpose and imagination can do great things!"

One critical goal moving Temple Ner Ami forward is to maintain its membership with the URJ. Our temple is uniquely positioned to help shape the future of the Reform Movement in Ventura County, and our Jewish family needs to play a larger role in making that happen. As Rabbi Jacobs highlights: "This moment in Jewish history demands bold thinking with big ideas; this is not a time for staying the course. It's time to reinvent the architecture of Jewish life."

- Dan Harris

The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

Honorariums/Memorials

Sharon Green in loving memory of her late son, Brandon Jeffrey King

Ray Gabriel in loving memory of her mother, Sara Uran

Irving Goldman in loving memory of his late wife, Faith Goldman

John & Beverly Kerwien in honor of our Grandchildren - the two fantastic college grads!

Lee Edwards to keep our movie nights program going

Albert Schwartz in loving memory of his Mother and Father, Ray and Jeno Schwartz

Sylvia Leventhal in loving memory of her Mother and Father, Celia and Sidney Valentine

Elva Levine in loving memory of her beloved husband, Allen Levine

Phyliss Mandel in loving memory of her brother, Joseph L. Schechtman, and her mother Clara Schechtman

Charles & Libby Pierce in loving memory of Libby's beloved brother, Lester Beacher Darryl & Carole Sobelman, in loving memory of Darryl's late wide, Carol Katz Sobelman

Newman Scholarship Fund

Paul & Tobie Treitman in honor of their grandson Matthew successfully completing another year of Torah School

From Julia Newman in honor of our wonderful teachers, this gift has been given with heartfelt gratitude for the devotion you have shown to the children of our Torah School: *Lisa Bock, Karen Dworsky, Avram Kohls, Galia Lapidot-Boaz, Saul Lessler, Rabbi Mike* and *Sharon Spielman*.

Dubin Teen Fund

From Julia Newman in honor of our fantastic Teen Connection youth advisors: *Gil Ramot, Jeffrey Lee Steinberg* and *Daniel Veselak* and to our terrific team of Madrichim (classroom assistants): *Garrett Erickson, Michael Fischler, Danielle Gaynor, Kyle Gaynor, Daniel Hartman, & Cara Weinstock.*

Torah School Principal's Chair

Israel Feingold in loving memory of his Father-in-Law, Isaac Diamond Howard & Shari Brody in honor of Emily Elizabeth Brody becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

Jaffe Library Fund

Phyllis Mandel in loving memory of her late husband, Abraham Mandel

General Donations

Stan & Karen Baratta Michael Fontaine Alan Levy Robert Moskowitz & Esther Torres Naomi Brill to pay for Temple advertising in the Ventura County Star Ken and Frieda Barr a donation from the proceeds of photographic events Carole Westwood in honor of the Temple's first year anniversary Rabbi Mike and Sonia Lotker for purchase of a donated safe

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Robert M. & Joyce A. Brown in loving memory of their dear friends Helen Hansom & Marie Panec Marvin & Carol Short in loving memory of their son, Michael Short Bernard & Helene Scherer in loving memory of Helene's Father, Sam Bookbinder

TEMPLE NER AMI Yahrzeits - July 2011

Friday, July 1, 2011

Benjamin Acker.....father-in-law of Ruth Acker Mary Rosansky.....mother of Lucille Goldin Sidney Valentine.....father of Sylvia Leventhal Ida Leona Minkin....grandmother of Stephanie Simon Harold Gordon.....late husband of Favrose Gordon Harry Korchek.....father of Ruth Acker Lester Beacher.....brother of Libby Pierce Doris Kadish....mother of Barbara Michaels Harry Robinson.....father of Kate Robinson Lucile Stone....mother of Anne Burke Betty Bridge....sister of Charlotte Markus Margaret Frank....mother of Joan Frank CeCelia Levin....wife of Richard Levin Ruth Putnam....mother of Mary Grey Isadore Rocklin.....father of Neil Rocklin Theodore Shapiro....brother of Mike Shapiro Jacob Kadish.....grandfather of Barbara Michaels Penney Dodson**....sister of Teri Milner Pearl Zimmerman....mother of Rita Cooperman

Friday, July 8, 2011

Phillip Bornstein.....uncle of William Goldstein
Ruth Levy.....sister of Sarah Brejensky
Robert A. Rosenberg brother of Sheila Bachelis
Mark Schwade.....father of Bonnie Shubb
Etta Taubman....mother of Paul Taubman
Marvin Belzer**..... father of Dr. Maynard Belzer
Aaron Block.....father-in-law of Hilde Block
Florence Gorelick.....mother of Diane Honick
Helen Levinson.....mother of Loretta Reshes
George Lotker.....father of Rabbi Michael Lotker
Henry Sol Fischler.....father of David Fischler
Theodore Endelman.....father of David J. Endelman
Rose Feingold.....mother of Israel Feingold
Helen Miller.....mother of Wayne Miller

Friday, July 15, 2011

Abraham Urbach.....father of Cynthia Urbach
Morris Wolff Wander.....father of Gail Wander Holzman
Manya Kirzhnerman.....grandmother of Greg Krastein
Sylvia Kerner Weisbart.....mother of Jan Safran
Jerome Schless..... brother of Charlotte Markus
John Woolf.....father of Claire Goldstein
Frieda Belzer.....mother of Maynard Belzer
Samuel Goldman.....father of Bernard Goldman
Isaac Krivoshayv....grandfather of Alec Kurman
Frances Crane....mother of Jay Crane
David Chorna**.....father-in-law of Max Heller
Ron Frankel.....brother of Nadine Frankel

Friday, July 22, 2011

Sol Shye**..... father of Lihi Gershater
Minnie Kovach.....mother of Fred Kovach
Bessie Woolf.....mother of Claire Goldstein
Marilyn Mitnick.....mother of Dr. Gary Mitnick
Sol Mesirov.....father of Fred Mesirov
George Schneiderman.....father of Natalie Rosen
David Pollock.....uncle of Gloria Brodie
Rhea Schallheim.....mother of Paul Schallheim
Emil Steiner.....father of Joan Stone
Sally Titen.....mother of Arthur Titen
Abe Epstein.....father-in-law of Bernice Epstein
May Meyers.....wife of Jack Meyers
Celia Hurwitz.....aunt of Jean Shev

Friday, July 29, 2011

Albert Milton Brooks.....father of Gloria Jean Brodie
Norman Nussbaum.....grandfather of Danalynn Pritz
Maurice Dektor..... grandfather of Dalya Dektor
Bernard Graham.....uncle of Deborah Blum
Owen Desenberg.....husband of Raja Desenberg
Mindl Kirschenbaum.....grandmother of Alec Kurman
Anita Allan....mother of Dr. Jeff Allan
Tillie Goldring.....grandmother of Andrea Donahoo
Rae Hochberg.....Mother of Betty Fink
Alvin Green.....husband of Sharon Green
Jacob Stone.....father of Anne Burke

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.

^{**} Name on the Yolanda Cramer Memorial Yahrzeit Board



Annual Meeting - Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 7pm

Temple Ner Ami Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am advising the membership of Temple Ner Ami of the Annual Meeting, taking place at 515 Temple Avenue, Camarillo, on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 7pm. Election of the Board of Directors will take place, plus year-end reports and the budget for fiscal year 2011/2012 will be presented.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

The next page is your household's individual Ballot and Proxy Statement. The top half is the ballot. If you prefer not to vote, you have the right to assign either the President of the Temple or another member to vote for you by proxy.

Please mail your Ballot and Proxy Statement to Temple Ner Ami so that it is received on or before August 9, 2011.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the Temple office, or contact the Temple Executive Leadership Team via email at tresidents@templenerami.org, or Dan Harris, President of the Board, via phone at (805) 504-5976.

L'Shalom,

Dan Harris

Dan Harris President, Board of Directors



For Members Only of JEWISH FAMILIES OF CAMARILLO, INC.

A California Non-Profit Corporation Dba TEMPLE NER AMI Annual Meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday – August 10, 2011

Directors Ballot & Proxy – 2011/12

The Nominating Committee of Temple Ner Ami has proposed the following candidates for Directors. Each director shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

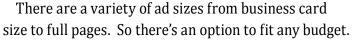
shall serve for a period of	two (2) years.			
Marc Grossman Dan Harris Gary Lie		Nadine Frankel Gary Lieb Joan Stone	Gary Goltz Harriet Lit Joan Taubman	Dale Jacobs Sarene Wallace
I approve of the pr	oposed candidates			
OR write-in candidate _				
Member's Signature		Date		
	_	ast your ballot via eMa oxy statment to Templ	_	
If you do not wish to vot	e, please complet	e the proxy below.		
The undersigned member acknowledges receipt of				us proxies,
CHECK ONE ONLY:		dent of this organizatio	n	
	(another men	nber of Jewish Families	of Camarillo, Inc.)	
as proxy of the member. and the power to use this thereof in the same mann have the same effect as if	s proxy and otherw ner set out below.	vise represent the mem Any act the proxyhold	ber at said meeting	and any adjournment
This proxy shall be used matters set forth below, or instructed to use this pro	or on other matters			
This proxy is to be	used for quorum	purposes only and may	not be voted.	
This member choo vote as she/he deems adv				acts the proxyholder to
This proxy will be that may come before the		wholder deems advisable mary purpose of this p		
Member's	Signature:		Date:	
Member's	Name			

MEGILLAH Advertisers Wanted!



The Temple Ner Ami *MEGILLAH* is a monthly 20-24 page *Full-Color* newsletter available for download at the Temple

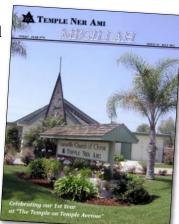
web site, and is mailed to all members of Temple Ner Ami and to other people interested in the activities and events at Camarillo's only Jewish Reform Temple. It is a must read for our subscribers. The *MEGILLAH* is unique because Temple members prefer to support businesses that support the Temple. So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



The more frequently you advertise the lower the cost for each ad. Our low multi-issue rates make it affordable for your ad to become familiar to the congregation so that your ad delivers the response you are looking for.

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

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



NEW: July 2011-June 2012 Advertising Rates

AD SIZE	DIMENSIONS (Tall-Wide)	1-month	3-months	Every Issue
Business Card	2" x 3.75"	\$36	\$30	\$25
Quarter Page	5" x 3.75"	\$120	\$90	\$60
Half Page	5" x 7.5"	\$180	\$132	\$96
Full Page	10" x 7.5"	\$225	\$150	\$119

^{*} All advertising is now in full-color at the above rates.

Advertising Materials Specifications:

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

Material Deadlines:

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

Publication Date:

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

Rights of the Publisher:

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

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



Church/Temple eWaste Recycling Event

Parking Lot, Saturday - July 9th, 9AM-1PM

Bring your old computers, monitors, TV sets, and other electronic devices to be responsibly recycled, and help the Temple raise funds.

In Focus Photography and Video

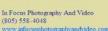


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~PORTRAITURE

~WEDDINGS

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October 22nd - Temple Casino Night at the Boys & Girls Club in Camarillo





TEMPLE NER AMI HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Sunday, November 13, 2011

To be held at the "Boys & Girls Club" in Camarillo. We need vendors! Please contact: Bobbe Jacobs at: bobbejacobs@gmail.com or call 805-389-4320

JUNE Outside Organization Meetings









CITY OF HOPE - GENERAL MEETING No Regular Meeting This Month Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

CITY OF HOPE - BOARD MEETING Monday July 25, 2011 - 9:30 AM Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

HADASSAH GENERAL MEETING No Regular Mtg. in July, Board Mtg 7/18, 10am Judy Meisels - Co-President 805-482-9222 Roberta Weinstein - Co-President 805-383-7573

ORT BOARD MEETING Thursday, July 7th, 2011 - 10am Annelies Regen - 805-445-9722

ORT General Meeting Theater Party, June 26th, 1:30 pm Thursday, July 28, 2011 - Noon 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

Torah School Summer Events, June 2 - August 11

SUMMER HAVERIM - CAMP PROGRAM (See Page 11)

Sat July 16 Bar Mitzvah Daniel Siela

Sun July 17 Mitzvah Day 2:00 (Come on down & give us a hand!)

Bat Mitzvah Hannah Harris Sat Aug 13 Sat Aug 20 Bar Mitzvah Adam Sookikian

Watch your e-mail for announcements of JYG & NAUTY opening parties in the Summer.

Torah School & Teen Connection Resume: September 12th & 14th

TEMPLE NER AMI -July 2011

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tes.		9 eWaste Recycling Event	15 16	4p Daniel Siela Bar Mitzvah	22 23	6:30p MOVIE NIGHT - An American Tail	29 30		(A)
Æ	7:30p Shabbat Service	7.30p Shabbat Service	14	7:30p Shabbat Service		6:30p Tot Shabbat Dinner 6:30p Tot Shabbat Service 7:30p Shabbat Service	28	7:30p Shabbat Service	10 ORT Board Meeting
T.		6 10 ORT Board Meeting						12p ORT General Meeting	10 ORT Board Meeting
Wed	12p Torah-Woman's Perspective		13	rp Town Hall Meeting	20		72	7p Board of Director's Meeting	
Tue	28 11:30 Girl Talk	gran Oid Talls	12	10:30 Eager Readers Book Club 11:30 Girl Talk	19	11:30 Girl Talk	26	11:30 Girl Talk	2 Girl Talk
Mon	Du Du	Holiday-Office Closed to	11		18	10 Hadassah Board Mtg.	25	9:30 City of Hope Board Mtg.	Aug 1
urs	26 y - "The King & I."		10		11	2p Mitzvah Day	24		5

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



Jewish Families of Camarillo, Inc. 515 Temple Avenue Camarillo, CA 93010 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U. S. POSTAGE PAID OXNARD, CA 93030 PERMIT NO. 195

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

TEMPLE NER AMI Appreciates Y	our continuou 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 <i>MEGILLAH</i> :	The <i>MEGILLAH</i> is published monthly for members of TEMPLE NER AMI. Complimentary copies are available by
Temple General FundTemple Building FundNewman Scholarship FundIrv Dubin Teen Scholarship FundRabbi's Discretionary Fund	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
Temple Music FundArt FundSigmund Jaffe Memorial Library FundTemple Prayer Book Fund	eMail your request to: admin@templenerami.org Submission date for all material: 12th of each month
In Honor of: In Loving Memory of:	
