



A Prayer for the New Year

by Rabbi Michael Lotker

With the beginning of the month of September, we begin the Hebrew month of *Elul*. In our tradition, *Elul* is a time for introspection, for examining the past year; for thinking about the mistakes that we made, apologies we need to seek, and what we can do to make the coming year better. In this light, looking ahead to *Rosh Hashanah* at the end of this month, I offer the following thoughts.

The past year and years have been wonderful for Sonia and me. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this amazing community and to finally move into it (only a few more boxes to go!). Our lives have been enriched by your warmth and friendship and, with God's help, we look forward to many more years here in Camarillo.

This year will be one of transition and planning as Temple Ner Ami continues its important work and prepares for the future. My prayer is that we strengthen our resolve to be a home for all the Jews of our community and their friends. God has entrusted us with the responsibility to do holy work – to make our community and our world a better place. We can do this only by addressing our mission in the broadest possible sense.

If we become divided, if we only serve narrow elements of our

community, our seniors or our school children, we fail. If we are only a Torah School for our children, if Jewish education ends at the ripe old age of 13 or even 16, the result will be that we teach these young minds (and confirm in our own minds) that Judaism is indeed childish and not a topic for serious, adult engagement. On the other hand, if we focus only on the needs, interests and concerns of our esteemed seniors, we abandon the future of our people.

No, Temple Ner Ami ("the Light of My People") must be a shining beacon for all the Jews of our community. The Jewish ideal is for lifelong study and engagement with God, sacred ideas and sacred texts. This wrestling with the holy (remember that the word Israel means "one who wrestles with God") should begin with our preschoolers learning the *Alef-Bet* and the holidays and continue with adult classes and Torah Study. I pledge to support Temple Ner Ami's Board and members as we seek to fulfill this sacred covenant that we entered into with God some 3200 years ago at Mount Sinai.

Sonia and I look forward to a year of transition and growth, of making new friends and of deepening old friendships, of prayer, of learning and of serving God and our community.

In This Issue

Welcome Verna Merrin.....	1
High Holy Days Ticket Info.....	1
August Movie Night.....	2
FREE Israel Trips.....	2
Cheder Chappenings.....	3
Tikkun Olam.....	5
Torah-Women's Perspective.....	6
Casino Night.....	7
Jewish Calendars Arrive!.....	8
Eager Readers Book Club.....	8
B'days & Anniversaries.....	9-10
BBQ & Open House.....	13
Girl Talk Successful.....	14
How Was Your Summer?.....	15
High Holy Days Schedule.....	18
Contributions.....	19
September Yahrzeits.....	20
Calendar.....	22



Oy Veygas!

Temple Casino Night
Saturday, October 22

Tickets Now on
SALE!



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515 Temple Avenue
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Welcome Verna Merrin!
by Sarene Wallace, VP

On behalf of the Temple Ner Ami Board of Directors, I'd like to wish you all *L'Shana Tovah*

u'Metukah (a good and sweet year).

We look forward to seeing everyone at High Holiday services. But, as my grandmother used to say, don't be a stranger. The more you get involved with Temple Ner Ami, the more connected and joyful you'll feel. It's true! There are so many ways to get involved. Just ask.

We'll find a spot for you.

Verna Merrin can tell you first-hand how fulfilling it is to be a volunteer. Verna is a seven-year TNA member and was recently installed on our board of directors. She joined the board, she said, to represent Leisure Village members.

She brings a long history of being involved in the Jewish and Leisure Village community to her new board position.

Verna and her husband, Irv, of blessed memory, moved to Leisure Village 14 years ago from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where they were active in the only congregation within a 50-mile radius. (The Conservative congregation had just 35 families.)

Once at Leisure Village, the couple got

involved in Tikvah and other activities. Verna has stayed active in the community since Irv's passing 5 ½ years ago.

At Leisure Village, she's the secretary of the Weight Control Group, a member of the Your Neighbor Cares Group, and a member of the Singles Club; she also does line dancing and the 8:30 exercise class. She's involved with the Women's Club, New York Club, Players' Guild, and

book club (formerly Brandeis). Verna is also a board member of ORT, a life member of Hadassah, and a Patron of Jewish War Veterans. Her hobbies include travel, reading, movies, rummy, walking, and swimming.

She has three children and three grandchildren.

We're excited to have Verna on the board and are

inspired by her active involvement in the community.

Speaking of volunteering, here's a perfect opportunity: **Oy Vegas!** Our casino night is the largest, most grand fund-raiser in several years at the temple and promises to be an *oysgetseykhent* (outstanding) event. We're looking for silent auction donations, helpers, baked goods, and you and your friends to attend the event.



Members - Your

HIGH HOLY DAYS TICKETS

have been mailed! Temple members who are current with their 2011-2012 dues have been sent their tickets. If you have not received your tickets, or are a non-member and would like to purchase tickets, please contact the Temple office.



Are you, or do you know someone who is:

- A. 18-26 years old, Jewish, and*
- B. has never been on a peer visit to Israel (i.e., having gone on a family or Temple trip does not disqualify you).*

Then you or your friend may be eligible for an all expenses paid trip to Israel!



Rabbi Lotker can put you on a priority list if you register and then send him your names, date of birth, and contact info (phone and email). In the past, getting on this list has seemed to help in making it into the limited spots available.

Winter/Spring 2011-2012 trips will be offered in December, January, February and March.

We expect most trips will be full by the September 14th deadline. Accordingly, it is critical that you register on time and get back to the Rabbi!

For more information about the trip, rules, etc. see <http://www.gokeshet.org/>

To send your information to the Rabbi, email him at: rabbi@templenerami.org

Don't miss your chance to take this trip and experience Israel in a way you will never forget!

MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY NIGHT AUGUST 27, 6:30 PM



An American movie with common Jewish/American themes: role of tradition, dilution of traditional practices, "rebellious" young adult children, courage, following one's dream, conformity, etc.

Shlomo Kreitzer will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterwards. For example, "Have you been in a Marjorie Morningstar situation? What did you do? How did it work out?"

Marjorie Morningstar is a 1958 melodrama film based on the 1955 novel of the same name. The film, directed by Irving Rapper, tells a fictional coming of age story about a young Jewish girl in New York City in the 1950s. The film's trajectory traces Marjorie Morgenstern's attempts to become an artist - exemplified through her relationship with the actor and playwright Noel Airman.

The central conflict in the film revolves around the traditional models of social behavior and religious behavior expected by New York Jewish families in the 1950s, and Marjorie's desire to follow an unconventional path.

The film is notable for its inclusion of Jewish religious scenes - including a Passover meal, a synagogue sequence and Jewish icons in the Morgenstern house. These depictions were one of the first times Jewish religion was portrayed overtly in film since *The Jazz Singer* in 1927. *Marjorie Morningstar* is also notable for its role in propagating the stereotype of the Jewish American Princess as well as the Jewish mother stereotype. Ironically, it gave star Natalie Wood a public reputation as a pioneer Jewish film actress, though in fact Jewish women had been acting in Hollywood for decades and Wood was not Jewish.



Cheder Chappenings

by Julia Newman

Shalom Haverim! Hello Friends,
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 were (and still are) a people and a community of hope. It was a good word to get us through some tough times. It led us to last year’s word “Opportunity.” A year ago we opened a new chapter in Temple Ner Ami’s history with our move to Temple Avenue. That move provided us the opportunity to put into place all of the themes of past years: Energy, Connection, Growth, and led us to this year’s theme of “Gratitude,” for we have much to be grateful for in our new home.

We are often referred to as ***The Little School with the Big Heart***. With an incredible faculty, the most supportive of families and the most wonderful students—Ner Ami Torah School has thrived. Our numbers continue to grow. Our curriculum and programs are updated and change to meet the needs of our students. Your children bring their unique gifts and challenges—and we work with each child as an individual. We will continue to move beyond our walls to be an example and to help our community. We have a thriving, active Havurah program.

There is a strong social component to our school. Activities such as games at recess, monthly Camp Kadima, and Junior Youth Group events encourage our students to have a Jewish connection.

A weekend Shabbaton is planned for 4th through 8th graders for this November—which will provide yet another way to connect through informal education and the fabulous benefit of a camp experience.

Here are some highlights of our curriculum and programs:

- Hebrew, Prayer and Ritual
- Holidays & Traditions
- Torah (Bible stories & History)
- Holocaust Education
- Life Cycle/Jewish Literacy
- Israel
- Ethics/Philosophy
- Social activities (Youth Groups)
- B’nai Mitzvah Family Education
- Mitzvot Field Trips (Rescue Mission, Retirement Homes)

Torah School begins the week of September 12, 2011.

For information about registration or any questions you might have about the school, please contact: Julia Newman at: educator@templenerami.org.

We look forward to seeing you, your children and grandchildren in the Fall.

B’shalom,

Julia and the Ner Ami Faculty

TEEN CONNECTION – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Teen Connection?

Teen Connection is a multi-component program that meets the varied needs, interests and schedules of today’s teens.

What are the “components” of Teen Connection?

- *NAUTY* (Ner Ami United Temple Youth—a division of NFTY) provides social, recreational, social action and leadership activities for senior high teens.
- *A Place of Our Own* provides a setting where teens can comfortably meet and engage in activities and dialogues which assist them in their maturing process and the strengthening of their Jewish identity. Led by a facilitator with Masters Degrees in Social Work & Jewish Communal Service.

- *Confirmation*, lead by our Student Rabbi, focuses on life’s big issues: beliefs that have lasting and important value. Students will have the opportunity to think, formulate, and share their beliefs. Through study of Torah and sacred texts, students will explore the richness of Judaism and how its teachings are pertinent to their lives.
- *Choices* is our 8th grade teen program. It is aptly named because of the variety of activities: social, academic and leadership that it provides. One of the components of Choices is the Madrichim (classroom assistant) program.

For registration and information about Teen Connection, which starts Sept. 14th, contact Julia Newman at: educator@templenerami.org

TORAH SCHOOL

Upcoming Sessions, Services & Special Events

SEPTEMBER

Mon	12	Opening Day of Torah School - Grades 4,5,6,7 & 8 (in the evening)
Wed	14	Opening Day of Torah School - Pre-K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & teens (evening)
Mon	19	Regular session
Wed	21	Regular session
Fri	23	Tot Shabbat Dinner and Family Program, 5:45 PM - 7:15 PM
Mon	26	Regular session Junior Youth Group 6:15 PM -7:30 PM
Wed	28	NO TORAH SCHOOL – Erev Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER

Mon	3	Regular session
Wed	5	Regular session
Mon	10	Regular session
Wed	12	Regular session
Sat	15	B'nai Mitzvah Family Education, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM
Mon	17	Regular session + Camp Kadimah – Sukkot
Wed	19	Regular session + Camp Kadimah - Sukkot
Fri	21	Consecration of New Students/Simchat Torah Celebration
Mon	24	Regular session & Junior Youth Group 6:15 -7:30
Wed	26	Regular session

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Tikkun Olam: תְּקוּן הָעוֹלָם



In July, I attended the Animal Rights National Conference in L.A. My daughter, Debra Erenberg, spoke at many of the workshops and gave the closing speech. Debra is currently the Midwest Regional Director for Amnesty International. Her career path includes: nonprofit attorney, grantwriter and grassroots organizer for such organizations as - **PETA** (People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals), **NARAL** (National Abortion Rights Action League), **CSPI** (Center for Science in the Public Interest), and **RAN** (Rainforest Action Network).

Debra lives a principled life. She is passionate about all of the causes which are part of *Tikkun Olam*: healing the world through environmental activism and the protection of human and animal rights.

At this conference I learned about the spiritual side of animals. Just look into the eyes of your companion animal and you can be certain of a soul connection. Debra, and most of these activists, are vegans. When I am with them I try to follow their example. I know in my heart that they are right. If you look into the eyes of a cow or a pig you can feel emotion. So how can

we kill, torture, experiment on and eat these sentient beings? Some of the reasons for not giving up meat are: it's too difficult to change, I'm lazy, it's tradition, or just that we are so distanced from our food source that we don't put a face to the piece of roast beef on our plate.

Let's all be a force for change this coming year. Become a vegetarian or a vegan three days a week. You might notice a positive change in your health just knowing that you are killing fewer cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and fish and reducing your carbon footprint.

The *Tikkun Olam* Committee is looking for new members and new ideas. Our goal is to make a positive impact in the lives of people and animals. We continue to volunteer at the Rescue Mission, and Somis Pantry, do hospital visitations; and arrange carpools to Temple.

The food request for the Somis Pantry for the month of September is: DESSERT - something sweet for the New Year.

L'Shana Tovah,
Harriet Lit, (805) 484-9119

Temple Gift Shop Chair Retires

For a number of years now, **Claire Goldstein** has been responsible for the lovely merchandise that has made our Temple Gift Shop so popular. Whether you have purchased holiday items, jewelry, cards, or one of the many other things, it was all there thanks to Claire and her buying and displaying skills.

Claire and her husband, Bill, are the former owners of two stores. The one in Pasadena was called Emil's Shoes and in Agoura, Bill's Bootery. They sold shoes, clothing and dance wear. Married for 61 years, they moved to California when Bill was in the Air Force. After he completed his tour of duty, Bill and Claire purchased their first home in Northridge when it was just a country town. They had three children and have six grandchildren—2 girls and 4 boys who range in age from 31 to 15.

Claire worked as a bookkeeper, buyer and sales woman in their stores. She upgraded her skills years later and learned to use the computer to do her bookkeeping. She loves knitting, shopping and lunching with her friends. She and Bill have done some traveling and are very happy in their Camarillo community where they have lived for 18 years.

Many thanks to Claire, and the input from Bill, for the years of managing our gift shop. The proceeds from our successful gift shop sales have been donated to the Torah School, and this made a lot of things possible for our director, students and teachers.

- Shari Brody



TODAH RABBAH - Means Thank You!

Message from Naomi Brill, Oneg Chair

August was a banner month in the *Oneg* Department! Ten of our members graciously offered to become Sponsors of one of our weekly *Onegs*. They were:

BETTY STALLMAN in memory of her mother, Jennie Stolman.

SANDRA GOODWIN in memory of her grandfather, Aaron Beckerman.

LEE EDWARDS in memory of her husband, Rudy Edwards.

ANNIELIES REGEN in memory of her husband, Rudy Regen.

SANDRA GOODWIN in memory of her grandmother, Lena Beckerman, and grandfather, Simon Copeland. (Second time this month for Sandra!)

DAN and MARY HARRIS in honor of their daughter, Hannah Harris's, Bat Mitzvah.

DENNIS and ANNE SOOKIKIAN in honor of their son, Adam Sookikian's, Bar Mitzvah.

MAX and JOSEPHINE FREIFELD in memory of Josephine's husband, Matthew Anselmo, and in memory of Max's father, Joshua Freifeld.

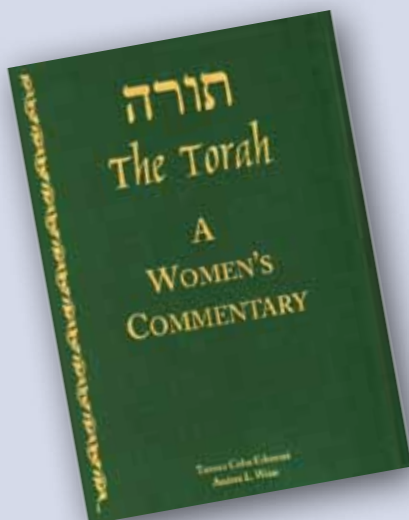


Many thanks to these generous people who certainly did their part to make our *Onegs* an enjoyable part of the Friday night observance of *Shabbat*. You are very much appreciated.

It occurred to me that some of you out there may not know what an *Oneg* is. It is the name we give to the social hour following our Friday night *Shabbat* services. At this time the Rabbi and Cantor lead us in making a prayer over the wine (wine for the Rabbi and Cantor but grape juice for the congregation) and the *Challah*. We then partake of the *Challah*, tea, coffee and the goodies that our sponsors have provided.

Please call me if you would like to sponsor an *Oneg*. You may do it to honor someone or in memory of a loved one. You can either bake some of the pastries yourself, buy the food or contribute a check to the Temple and I will shop for you. When you call me, I will give you even more particulars. This is an excellent way to not only help your Temple function but also to meet new people.

I await your call. NAOMI BRILL, Oneg Chair, (805) 388-8511.



*Torah Study:
The
Women's
Perspective*

Join Us Again!

Wednesdays, Noon - 1 pm
Beginning Sept. 7th.

Bring your lunch, and join Student Rabbi Lisa Bock as we shine light on the Torah from the women's perspective!



Oy Veygas!

\$\$\$ Big Fun \$\$\$ Big Fundraiser \$\$\$

Temple Ner Ami's Casino Night Saturday, October 22nd

at the Camarillo Boys & Girls Club
7:00 pm until last gambler folds!

Enjoy Black Jack, Craps, Roulette & More!
Buffet Style Appetizers, Dinner & Dessert,
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Mailing Address: 515 Temple Ave., Camarillo, CA 93010 Phone: (805) 388-3824

My name is _____ I am purchasing _____ tickets @ \$54 each for a total of _____.

Please charge my: Debit Card MasterCard Discover VISA Check Enclosed

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CCV Security Code _____

My Signature: _____ Date: _____

5772 JEWISH CALENDARS ARE HERE!!!

Next time you stop by the Temple make sure to pick up your new Jewish Calendar. As in past years, these beautifully illustrated calendars are provided to Temple members at no charge. They are provided by Hillside Memorial Park & Mortuary, located at 6001 West Centinela Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Their phone number is (310) 641-0707. For more information on Hillside, visit them on the internet at www.hillsidememorial.org.





My Grandma Sells Leisure Village

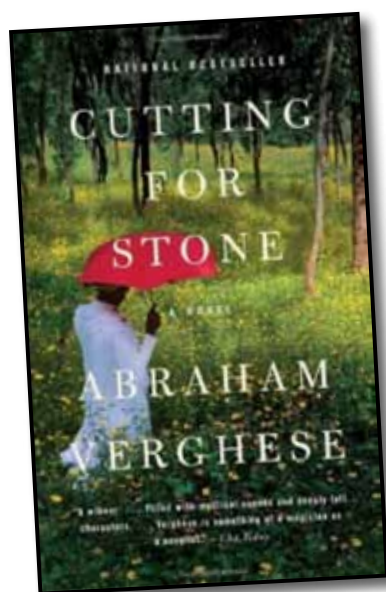


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EAGER READERS BOOK CLUB

Meets Tuesday, September 13th, 10:30 AM

August Selection for Discussion: *Cutting for Stone*

Lauded for his sensitive memoir (*My Own Country*) about his time as a doctor in eastern Tennessee at the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the 80s, Verghese turns his formidable talents to fiction, mining his own life and experiences in a magnificent, sweeping novel that moves from India to Ethiopia to an inner-city hospital in New York City over decades and generations. Sister Mary Joseph Praise, a devout young nun, leaves the south Indian state of Kerala in 1947 for a missionary post in Yemen. During the arduous sea voyage, she saves the life of an English doctor bound for Ethiopia, Thomas Stone, who becomes a key player in her destiny when they meet up again at Missing Hospital in Addis Ababa. Seven years later, Sister Praise dies birthing twin boys: Shiva and Marion, the latter narrating his own and his brother's long, dramatic, biblical story set against the backdrop of political turmoil in Ethiopia, the

life of the hospital compound in which they grow up and the love story of their adopted parents, both doctors at Missing. The boys become doctors as well and Verghese's weaving of the practice of medicine into the narrative is fascinating even as the story bobs and weaves with the power and coincidences of the best 19th-century novels. (Reprinted view from amazon.com was created by Publishers Weekly).



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carole Warren	Thursday	September 1	Gilbert R. Cooperman	Saturday	September 17
Cheri Kurman	Friday	September 2	Morton W. Marcovitz	Tuesday	September 20
Richard Levin	Friday	September 2	Susan Saleh	Wednesday	September 21
Elaine Jaffe	Saturday	September 3	Joseph Aaronson	Saturday	September 24
Roberta Jacobs	Monday	September 5	Ninette Beg	Saturday	September 24
Jeri Belzer	Tuesday	September 6	Hilda Pergament	Saturday	September 24
Steve Pomerantz	Tuesday	September 6	Danalynn Pritz	Saturday	September 24
Myrna Zimmerman	Friday	September 9	Darryl Sobelman	Saturday	September 24
Jerry Lewine	Sunday	September 11	Dr. Edward Hawthorne	Sunday	September 25
Esther Torres	Sunday	September 11	Jonathan Moch	Monday	September 26
Shari Brody	Tuesday	September 13	Dennis Sookikian	Tuesday	September 27
Seymour Heiss	Tuesday	September 13	Sarene Wallace	Tuesday	September 27
Howard Brody	Thursday	September 15	Stephanie Goldie	Wednesday	September 28
			Frances Kuznets	Wednesday	September 28
			P. Larry Teitell	Wednesday	September 28

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

Dedicated Beth Shalom Lawn Section



PERSONAL CHOICES

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



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SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Gary & Amy Goltz	Thursday	September 1	15th anniversary
Dr. Gary Lieb & Dr. Cathy Kim	Thursday	September 1	15th anniversary
Keith & Robin Elliott	Saturday	September 3	9th anniversary
Mark & Jennifer Greenblatt	Monday	September 5	18th anniversary
Bernard & Helene Scherer	Wednesday	September 7	59th anniversary
Tim & Dana Mascot	Thursday	September 8	26th anniversary
Steve & Jennifer Moore	Friday	September 9	21st anniversary
Melvin & Frances Kuznets	Wednesday	September 14	14th anniversary
Jim & Alice Babich	Friday	September 16	44th anniversary
David & Romy Henderson	Wednesday	September 21	11th anniversary
Mike & Clarice Shapiro	Friday	September 30	55th 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.

SORRY, NO MOVIE NIGHT IN SEPTEMBER!

Due to the High Holy Days being at the end of the month we will not be having a movie night.

JEWISH MOVIES TO SEE AND DISCUSS

Want to see and discuss some "Jewish-related movies?"

Please cast your vote by telling Shlomo Kreitzer, in person, or send him an eMail message at MitzvahMensch@yahoo.com. Current possibilities: Annie Hall (1977), Gentleman's Agreement (1947), Exodus (1960), Driving Miss Daisy (1989), Dirty Dancing (1987). These are shown on the fourth Saturday night at the temple. While these are "Jewish" movies, everyone is invited.

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A Blond and a Jew Walk into a Bar....

by Dr. Gregg Hartman

Actually, this is a true story, but let me start over. Sharon and I walked into in a bar, and we sat down and started to have a conversa-

tion. The subject was very simple. Why are we paying our temple dues? Is the purpose of our dues to pay the electric bills and pay the rent? It is to pay the Rabbi's salary? Or is it bigger than that? Are we trying to build a Jewish Community for our children, and for Jewish families in Camarillo?

I believe that it is the latter. Paying the money gets us the brick and mortar, but building a Jewish Community takes a lot more. When we buy a stock, we think about our return on investment. When we join an organization, we think the same. Is this a good investment? How can I maximize my return on that investment? The answer to these questions is very simple. PARTICIPATE.

I know every single reason that you can come up with as to why you don't participate. Believe me, I have used every one myself, and have probably used some that you haven't thought of yet. But let me give you just one reason that you should get involved: so that your family has a Jewish Community to identify with.

I remember, as a child, being excited to go to temple. I didn't necessarily like sitting through services, but I had a group of friends that made it fun. We ate our Oneg cookies in the youth room, my dad would talk to the other members of the brotherhood, and my mom with the sisterhood ladies. When new Jewish families would move into the area, we would invite them to join us for services, or some other function. Currently in our community, that could be a problem. Some time ago I attended a brotherhood meeting with Steve Moore. In addition to the two of us, there were four other people there. Imagine if I had brought a new potential member to that function. I would have spent the majority of the night apologizing, and explaining how "it's not usually like this."

Since then the Brotherhood has ceased to exist. In hopes of resurrecting some kind of brotherhood, Steve and I started a men's poker group. We get together about every other month and it has grown into a two poker table event – not including the large table of great food. Even though we are not calling ourselves "the Brotherhood of TNA" we as Jews are trying to congregate because that's what we do as Jews.

So why should anyone belong to the temple? If you're just looking for a place to go for the High Holidays, fine. But if you feel like me – that a temple should be the center of the Jewish Community, then help me. Make a commitment to yourself, to your children, to your grandchildren, and to your fellow congregants to take an active part in our Jewish community.

Don't throw your money and time away. Let's get the most return on our investment possible. Let's make Temple Ner Ami the true center of our Jewish Community. Let's turn the building where we meet, into the heart and soul of OUR Community. Our JEWISH Community. Let's all get involved.

In the months ahead you will have the opportunity to participate in some new things here at Temple Ner Ami. But what do YOU want? What will fuel YOUR passion to become – as we are charged as Jews – a partner in creation? I'm not asking for a daily or even a weekly commitment. Start slowly: if it feels right, the rest is easy. If you don't like something and you just turn your back and walk away, then the future of our temple is bleak. I'm committed to making this Temple the center of our Jewish Community and so is my poker buddy, Steve Moore. But we can't do it alone. Please join us. Email Steve at stevemooreseafood@gmail.com with your ideas, aspirations and desires for this temple, and be sure to tell us how YOU plan to get involved.

Our future depends on it.

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Your history and life experiences are unique and special. We can help you make a lasting record of your life story that will be cherished by your family throughout time.”

A priceless gift for your family!

I saved a **MEGILLAH** article that Ruth Nathan had written about 5 years ago in which she described a gift that she had given to her daughters. Ruth recorded her personal life story with the help of a trained volunteer who came to her home. The Camarillo Hospice Oral History Program provided this complimentary service.

“Ruth’s words pulled at my heart. I wanted my children to know about my life and their family history and I am the only one left who can do it. I called, made the appointment and a lovely woman came to my home to begin recording my story. We worked together over a few months’ time and when it was completed and edited, I received a case with my picture on it and inside was a gold CD with my name on it. This is my story, and I am so happy that I took the time to do it.”

This is a project that I highly recommend! It was a delightful experience that gives me a sense of pride that I have left an oral legacy for my family. It takes about 5 or 6 meetings of about an hour each and costs nothing.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you and you will be glad that you did it! You can ask questions and get started by calling Laurie Davis, Director of Volunteer Services at 805-389-6870 ext. 12.

I love sharing good things with others! Thanks, Ruth!

Shari Brody

An Attitude of Gratitude - Thank you Jewish Federation!

In keeping with our theme for the Torah School year (this year’s word is **gratitude**) we gratefully announce the generous allocation that we received from the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. Our grant requests were met by a very favorable response from the Federation.

For the year 2011-2012 we were awarded **\$14,500**. The programs that were funded included:

- Is There Life After *B’nai Mitzvah*?
8th Grade Choices & 9th-12th Grade Teen Connection
- Early Childhood Education
- Girl Talk

We received an additional allocation of **\$11,000** which we share with other Jewish schools in West Ventura County. This allocation covers:

- JOLT - Jews Out Learning Together
- Extreme Haverim - Summer Camp
- Shabbaton – Weekend retreat for 4th – 8th graders

We received this message from the Jewish Federation:

“On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Allocations Committee, we would like to wish you a very successful year with all of your programs. In these difficult economic times, our mutual success depends on community partnerships. We are proud to be your partner in bringing quality Jewish Educational Programming to our community.”

I know you join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for the Federation’s continuing support of our educational programs and the recognition of their deserving excellence.

B’shalom,
Julia





Temple Ner Ami Barbecue & Open House

Sunday, Sept 18, 1pm - 5pm


Join us for food, drink, and desserts while catching up with friends and meeting new ones. Play "Ask the Rabbi", Tour our Temple, Meet our Teachers, and do some Jolly Jumping!

Temple members are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.
Please call Cathy Kim Lieb to volunteer with set-up and clean-up.

Borrowing, like scratching, is only good for a while.
Yiddish Proverb

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GIRL TALK: A SUCCESSFUL PILOT PROGRAM

What is **Girl Talk**?

Girl Talk is a structured psycho-educational program that promotes teen self awareness, Jewish identity, the application of Jewish values to daily life, communication, and social skills, made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. The teens and I have met once per week for an hour and a half, throughout the summer. We had 9 girls participating, with ages ranging from 11 to 14 years.

Here are a few of the topics covered:

- Self Awareness, Formation of Identity.
- Jewish Values (corresponding to a wide variety of topics discussed).
- Difference between want and need.
- Role of education in goal achievement.
- Learning disabilities' impact on siblings.
- Gifted Students and socialization at school.
- Friendship skills.
- Identifying the characteristics that make a good friend.
- Selecting friends (according to similar interests and value system).
- Breaking confidentiality (divulging secrets when a friend appears to be at risk).
- Verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- Projection of confidence through appropriate body language.
- General and specific conflict resolution skills.
- Negotiation techniques (with siblings and parents).
- How to show respect to parents.
- Accepting compromises.
- Identifying negative behaviors.
- Taking responsibility.
- Making a structured apology.
- Validation/positive feedback.
- Using self control.
- Coping with jealousy.
- Relaxation techniques.

And much more.



All topics were tied to supporting Jewish values. For example, when discussing friendship, the concept of Lashon Harah (gossip and inappropriate speech) was discussed. When discussing developing one's own identity, the role of temple and community was brought up, since developing friendships with other Jews reinforces Jewish identity, etc.

Since **GIRL TALK** started as a Pilot Program, at the end of each meeting, each participating young lady was asked to rate what she had learned compared to previous knowledge (scale of 1 to 10). The average rating was 8+.

Because of parents' interest and high ratings, our Torah School Principal, Julia, has decided to continue the program throughout this school year.

It is our hope that the extra time will allow the girls to go over topics in more depth, as well as being exposed to other topics of significance.

It is important to note that Girl Talk does not have to be for girls only. This program can be adapted to boys as well. A parallel program can be designed for parents, with emphasis on parent/child relationship, discipline and/or other topics.

Here are some of the specific improvement results: Some of the teens started to negotiate with younger siblings, some used and body and communication skills to make requests, surmount shyness, and much more. However, my favorite comment came from a participant who declared that her mother is not crazy after all! This comment from a teen? Now that's what I call improvement!

With caring,
Sonia Lotker

*(Sonia is a retired school psychologist with a Masters in School Psychology and a teaching credential in Pupil Services. She has many years experience in group and individual counseling with both children and adults.
-Julia Newman)*





How Was Your Summer?

What did you do *Jewish* this summer?

By the time you read this, it will be the beginning of the month of *Elul*, which is the last 30 days leading up to *Rosh*

Hashanah.

Why would I say the last 30 days, leading up to *Rosh Hashanah*?

Because we have been on a journey, leading up to the High Holy Days, all summer long. Let me explain.

If we look closely at our Torah, we see that in the book of Exodus, the Exodus from Egypt begins on the 15th of *Nisan*. This year this was a while back—April 19th. If that sounds familiar, it should. That was the first day of Passover. If you want to confirm this, go to Exodus, Chapter 12, and your calendar!

By June 3rd, the 1st of *Sivan*, we had been travelling, and we entered the wilderness of Sinai (Exodus 19:1), and it was at this time that Moses goes up to speak with God (Exodus 19:3). Our Torah relates in chapters 19 and 20 that God speaks the 10 Commandments, or ten utterances, to Moses, and “all the people witness the thunder and lightning.”

So far, so good. However, Moses goes back up the mountain right around *Shavuot* (June 8-9), and remains there for 40 days. During those 40 days, the Israelites get restless, worried and bored.

What do we do when we get bored? (If you have kids bored over the summer, you know.) We get into trouble. We built the molten calf (Exodus 32:1). A few verses later, at the end of the 40 days, God gives Moses the tablets of the pact (Exodus 32:18). Now the Israelites are in trouble. God sees what they’re doing at the base of the mountain, and tells Moses that He will destroy the people and start over just with Moses. Moses implores God to renounce this punishment, and God does. Instead, Moses comes down the mountain himself, shatters the tablets, destroys the molten calf, and punishes the people (Exodus 32:19-29). The date that this corresponds to in our calendar is 17th *Tammuz*, and this past summer, this was July 19th. This is traditionally a fast day.

A couple of days later, Moses goes back up the mountain to ask forgiveness for the people. This isn’t readily granted. Moses negotiates with God, and it takes weeks. By the 9th of *Av*, there is a culmination of three weeks of mourning – the Israelites are mourning what has happened, and mourning the damage that has been done in their relationship with God. Then begins seven weeks

of consolation, during which even our *Haftarah* readings – the selections from the books of the Prophets - are chosen to reflect themes of consolation.

On the 1st of *Elul*, this year, August 31st, Moses carves two tablets (that will become the 2nd set of the Commandments), and again pleads for forgiveness for the people (Exodus 34:1-9), and God responds with the covenant. Moses writes on the tablets and this concludes 40 days. (Exodus 34:27-28).

Finally, after 40 days and nights, Moses comes down Mt. Sinai with the tablets of the pact (Exodus 34:29). After a long time, with Moses pleading, negotiating, and waiting, God has granted the Israelites forgiveness, and the Israelites have been given the Covenant. This is *Yom Kippur*, the 10th of *Tishri*, and this year, this is October 8th.

What next? Well, what do we do as soon as *Yom Kippur* is over?

We build a *sukkah*! On the 15th of *Tishri*, this year, October 13th, Leviticus 23:33-36 instructs us that this is the Feast of Booths – a *sukkah* is a booth – to last 7 days, with an additional 8th day, because it is such a joyous time. This is a celebratory time, like a reunion or wedding. Leviticus 23:39-43 also instructs about the *Lulav* – more about that later!

So what does this tell us?

This tells us that just as we know that summer is a time of rest and relaxation from many of our normal activities, especially for those who are in school, teach, or have children or grandchildren in school, it is also a time of preparation.

The summer is a time of preparation for your Rabbis, your temple staff, religious school teachers, and also for you. Just as we know that summer leads to the fall, summer, looking through a Jewish perspective, is also a time of preparation for the High Holy Days. The 30 days of *Elul* are an especially intense time to prepare for the internal work that we do which culminates in the High Holy Days. It takes time and intention to inquire within our own hearts on the questions that only each of us can answer.

A couple of years ago, I developed a checklist of questions of my own, though you will likely – may and should - develop your own:

High Holy Days Checklist:

- What are my values?
- Are my values consistent with Jewish Values, with To-

rah?

- What are my priorities?
- Are my priorities consistent with my values?
- What actions fill my days?
- Are my actions consistent with my values and priorities?
- Do I have balance in my life?
- When I am gone, what do I want to be known for?
- If the Divine asked me one question, what would it be? How would I answer?
- If I could ask the Divine one question, what would that be?

One last thought – the High Holy Days are a time of repentance, return, and renewal. We must remember as we do the internal, evaluative work of preparing our “selves” for the High Holy Days, that we often are our own harshest critics. When we evaluate ourselves, we must remember and honor that light, that spark of the Divine, within each of us.

I believe the purpose of the High Holy Days is to renew our own awareness of this inner light, dust it off, and allow it to shine brightly for the New Year that is just beginning.

I hope your journey over the summer has been a restful and enjoyable one, restful, and that your journey into the New Year of 5772 is meaningful.

Blessings and Shalom,
Student Rabbi Lisa Bock



***The Jewish Genealogical Society of
the Conejo Valley and Ventura County***

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2011,
7:00-9:00pm at Temple Adat Elohim**

**“U.S. Immigration and Naturalization”
presented by Hal Bookbinder**

One of the first things that the newly created United States of America did was to establish laws covering naturalization. These laws, however, were administered by the states with many variations. Over the years, the laws were repeatedly changed.

Finally, in 1906 the Federal Government took control of the entire process. The standardized documentation after 1906 has proven invaluable to genealogical researchers. Similarly, laws controlling immigration have also changed over time, generally becoming more restrictive. As immigration and naturalization documentation can be key information in tracing one’s roots, understanding how the process worked over time, understanding how the information was recorded and where it might be found is essential.

This lecture will provide a short history of immigration and naturalization laws and provide general guidance in finding your ancestor’s documentation.

This Month’s Speaker:

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



For more information, please call the JGSC at (818) 889-6616 or via email at: information@jgscv.org.



**HIGH HOLY DAYS'
BOOK OF MEMORY 2011
YOM KIPPUR 5772**

Temple Ner Ami will be publishing a Book of Memory for our Yom Kippur Yizkor Service. Names submitted will be read by the Rabbi during the Yizkor Service.

Please complete the following and return to Temple Ner Ami no later than Friday, September 23, 2011 (please print).

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

Remembered by: _____

Suggested donation of \$18 per name will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!



TEMPLE NER AMI

High Holy Days Schedule **September - October 2011** **Tishri 5772**

SATURDAY, September 24, 2011

S'lichot Program & Service - 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2011

Erev Rosh Hashanah - 7:30 PM

THURSDAY, September 29, 2011

Rosh Hashanah Service - 10:00 AM (childcare provided)

Children's Service - 10:15-11:00 AM

***Family Service & Tashlich at Harbor Cove - 3:00 PM**

FRIDAY, October 7, 2011

Kol Nidre Erev Yom Kippur - 8:00 PM (Please, no young children)

SATURDAY, October 8, 2011

Yom Kippur - 10:00 AM - Childcare Provided

***Family Service - 1:30 PM**

***Discussion Group- 2:30 PM**

***Yizkor Service - 4:30 PM**

***Closing (Ne'ilah) Service - 5:15 PM**

*** Indicates no tickets are required for this event.**

Students and military are free to all events.

*If you have your own GATES OF REPENTANCE prayer book,
please bring it, as we have limited copies.*

The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

Honorariums/Memorials

Sandra Goodwin, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of Aaron Beckerman, her Grandfather
Sandra Goodwin, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of Lena Beckerman, her Grandmother
Sandra Goodwin, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of Simon Copeland, her Grandfather
Irwin & Andrea Granat, in loving memory of Jeanne Katzel
Betty Fink, in loving memory of her son, Ronald "Ron" Fink
Betty Fink, in loving memory of her mother, Rae Hochberg
Robert & Carol Goodkin, Mazel Tov to Arlene & Irv Bergman on their new home
Raye Gabriel, in honor of her move to her daughter's home in Oak View
Zelda Greentree, in loving memory of her beloved late husband, Irwin "Red" Greentree
Lee Edwards, in loving memory of her beloved late husband, Jim Edwards
Iris Shifren, in loving memory of her daughter, Helene Shifren
Della Carmona, in loving memory of Della's late Husband, Albert Carmona
Della Carmona, in loving memory of Della's late Mother-in-law, Fortunee Carmona
Lee Edwards, CoSponsor of Oneg in loving memory of her late husband, Jim Edwards
Betty Stallman, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of of Betty's Mother Jennie Stolman
Raja Desenberg, in loving memory of her late husband Owen L. "Dez" Desenberg
Annelies Regen, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of her late husband, Rudolf
Max & Josephine Freifield, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of Max's father, Joshua Freifield
Harriet Silvertrust, in loving memory of her mother, Rose Karstadt
Darryl, Carole & Warren Sobelman in loving memory of Darryl's late wife Carol
Doris Weinberg, in loving memory of her beloved Mother, Ada Bloom

Temple Music Fund

Jean Shev, in loving memory of Morris, Marie & Stanley Mandel and Oscar Shev

General Donations

Richard Erlich

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Harriet Silvertrust in loving memory of her mother, Rose Karstadt

Natalie Krantz Caring Committee

David & Judy, Douglas & Joan, and Thomas & Danielle Krantz in loving memory of their parents,
Natalie & Marvin Krantz
David & Judy, Douglas & Joan, and Thomas & Danielle Krantz in honor of their very dear and
treasured friend, Jean Shev

TEMPLE NER AMI

Yahrzeits - September 2011

Friday, September 2, 2011

Robert Grossman.....father of Marc Grossman
Charles Hochberg.....father of Betty Fink
Sybil Levey.....mother of Sharon Hartman
Surah Levine.....aunt of Nadine Frankel
Arnold Siegel.....father-in-law of Rabbi Michael Lotker
Pauline Schultz.....mother of Leo A. Schultz
Sidney Rosen.....brother of Violet Coshever
Matthew Anselmo.....late husband of Josephine Freifeld
Asher Cohen.....father of Ninette Beg
David Warren.....father of Carole Warren
Clara Rose Bachelis.....Mother-in-law of Sheila Bachelis
Freida Weinberg.....mother of Alan, Warren and Carla Weinberg
Lenore Harris.....mother of Pam Bogen

Friday, September 9, 2011

Maurice Kadin.....father of James Kadin
Herman Slapin.....father of William Slapin
Harry Seiden.....father of Frank Seiden
Mollie Spahn.....mother of Lillian Hawthorne
Sadie Acker.....mother-in-law of Ruth Acker
Lillian Leboff.....mother of Raymond Leboff
Archie Joseph Levin.....father of Richard Levin
Moniek Piasecki.....brother of Charles Pierce
Alfred Coshever.....husband of Violet Coshever
Madeline Lofthouse.....sister of Doreen Bennett
Grace Lotker.....mother of Rabbi Michael Lotker
Esther Piasecki.....mother of Charles Pierce
Herschel Piasecki.....father of Charles Pierce
Shymon Piasecki.....brother of Charles Pierce
Abraham H. Geffner.....brother-in-law of Julian Weiss
Nathan Weintraub.....grandfather of Dalya Dektor & great grandfather of Elizabeth Jacobs
Alex Taubman.....father of Paul Taubman

Friday, September 16, 2011

Alex Weltsch.....father of Frances Yasney
Margaret Weltsch.....mother of Frances Yasney
Wilma Gillman.....mother of Heather Burstein
Eva Posner.....mother of Jules Posner
Joseph Bloom.....father of Doris Weinberg
Charles Klein.....brother of Elva Levine
Jack Leventhal.....father of Elaine Jaffe
Sidney Pollitz.....father of Fayrose Gordon
Eleanor Reshes.....mother of Stanley Reshes

Friday, September 16, 2011 (continued)

Robert Budin.....father of Jessica Budin-Calorso
Don King**.....father of Jennifer Moore, husband of Sandra King
Susan Corcoran.....sister of Stephen Miller
Joe Pinto.....father of Al Pinto
Dina Tucci.....mother of Jessica Budin-Calorso

Friday, September 23, 2011

William Blau.....father of Sy Blau
Sarah Krivoshayv.....grandmother of Alec Kurman
Sarah Mauger.....mother of Charlotte Kreitzer
Maurice Sterin.....uncle of Arlene Cohen
Augusto Calderon.....father of Carmen Keys
Harry Beg.....father of Fred Beg
Diane Felder.....mother of Jeffrey Felder
Edward Sadowsky.....father of Allan Sadowsky
Murray Rose.....brother of Lucille Golden
Ben Frank.....father of Joan Frank
Agnes Borla.....mother of Alex Borla
Albert Improta.....father of Robert Improta
Lou Levinson.....father of Loretta Reshes
Leon Markus.....husband of Charlotte Markus
Celia Scherer.....mother of Bernard Scherer
Anne Weiss.....wife of Julian Weiss

Friday, September 30, 2011

Jack Dinovitz.....father of Lawrence Dinovitz
David Harwood.....father of Rande Charton; husband of Lois Harwood
Alex Scheerger.....son of Robert & Sarah Scheerger
Aaron Weiss.....husband of Selma Weiss
Mae Rosenberg.....mother of Sheila Bachelis
Elaine Greene.....mother of Sandi Banks
Lillian Kaminsky.....grandmother of Stephanie Simon
Rose Schless.....mother of Charlotte Markus
David Ettenberg.....father of Joseph Ettenberg
Blume Merrin mother-in-law of Verna Merrin
Morton Schless..... brother of Charlotte Markus
Robert Silvertrust.....husband of Harriet Silvertrust
Joseph Odenberg.....late husband of Eleanor Odenberg
Harry Erlich.....father of Richard Erlich
Bernard Lewine.....father of Gerald Lewine

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

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

4 facts YOU need to know

about stroke prevention

- 80% of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs.
- Ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke.
- Stroke is a leading cause of death and permanent disability.
- Screenings are fast, painless, affordable and convenient.

A stroke screening is coming to the temple!

Where: Temple Ner Ami
 When: Monday, September 19, 2011
 Pre-registration is required. Call: 1-800-324-1851

Source Code: ISC5603

www.LifeLineScreening.com



TEMPLE NER AMI HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Sunday, November 13, 2011

To be held at the
Camarillo Boys & Girls Club

The only vendors we still need are for children's books/toys/puzzles, and a vendor that does garden art.

Also need someone to help with PR!

Please contact: Bobbe Jacobs at:
bobbejacobs@gmail.com or call 805-389-4320

SEPTEMBER 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 Sept. 26, 2011 - 9:30 AM
 Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

HADASSAH GENERAL MEETING

No general meeting this month
 Board Mtg 9/19, 10am
 Judy Meisels - Co-President 805-482-9222
 Roberta Weinstein - Co-President 805-383-7573



ORT BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 5th, 2011 - 10am
 Annelies Regen - 805-445-9722

ORT General Meeting

The September speaker is Sulen Rubaliaza of the Ventura County Star
 Thursday, September 22nd, 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

TEMPLE NER AMI - September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2
		11:30 Girl Talk	Rabbi Office Day	10 ORT Board Meeting 7p HHD Choir Practice	7:30p Shabbat Service	10:30 Lindsay Golitz Bat Mitzvah
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labor Day Holiday - Office Closed		12p Torah - Women's Perspective	7p HHD Choir Practice	7:30p Shabbat Service	4p HHD Rehearsal
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	4:15p Torah School Starts	10:30 Eager Readers Book Club	Rabbi Office Day 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Torah School 7p Board of Directors Meeting	7p HHD Choir Practice	7:30p Shabbat Service	
	18	19	20	21	22	23
1p End-of-Summer Picnic 4:30p HHD Rehearsal	Lifeline Screening Event 10 Hadassah Board Mtg. 4:15p Torah School		12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Torah School	12p ORT General Meeting	8:45p Tot Shabbat Dinner/Family Proj 7:30p Shabbat Service	8:45p Tot Shabbat Dinner/Family Proj 7:30p Shabbat Service
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	9:30 City of Hope Board Mtg. 4:15p Torah School 6:15p Junior Youth Group		No Torah School Today Rabbi Office Day 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 7:30p Erev Rosh Hashanah 5772	10 Rosh Hashanah	7:30p Shabbat Service	

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



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TEMPLE NER AMI Appreciates Your Continued Support!

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

- _____ Temple General Fund
- _____ Temple Building Fund
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- _____ Temple Music Fund
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- _____ Temple Prayer Book Fund

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

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

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

admin@templenerami.org

Submission date for all material:

12th of each month

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

From: _____